

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT Thomas Black

FILE NO. 65-59181

SECTION NO. 12

SERIALS 368

to

393

NOTICE

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File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas BlackREVIEWED BY JSPDate: 2/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
368	11/5/54	PH teletype to HQ	1	1	
369	11/19/54	PH letter to HQ & enc.	3	3	
NR	11/16/54	PH letter to HQ	1	1	b7D, b7C
370	11/24/54	HQ letter to DJ	2	2	b7D
371	5/12/55	HQ letter to PH	1	1	
371	4/18/55	PH letter to HQ	3	3	
372	5/10/55	Belmont memo to Boardman	2	2	
373	5/24/55	PH letter to HQ	1	1	b7D, b7C
374	6/30/55	PH letter to HQ	2	2	b7D, b7C
375	7/22/55	NK letter to HQ	1	0	Referred to another gov't agency
376	8/6/55	PH letter to HQ	1	1	
NR	9/18/55	HQ letter to AL	4	3	b1, b7C, b7D

File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas BlackREVIEWED BY JSKDate: 2/78
(month year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
377	9/30/55	PH letter to HQ	3	3	
378	12/5/55	PH letter to HQ	1	1	
379	1/16/56	PH letter to HQ	1	1	
380	1/30/56	NK letter to HQ	1	1	
381	2/13/56	PH letter to HQ	2	2	
382	3/8/56	NK letter to HQ	2	2	
383	3/22/56	Correlation summary	123	10	Refer to another govt agency
384	3/27/56	PH letter to HQ	5	5	
384	4/2/56	HQ letter to NK	1	1	
385	4/20/56	NK letter to HQ	2	2	
386	5/7/56	HQ teletype to NK, PH, WFO	1	1	
387	5/3/56	HQ airtel to NK	2	2	b7D

File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas BlackDate: _____
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
NR	5/8/56	HQ letter to CIA	1	1	
388	5/4/56	PH letter to HQ	2	2	b3
389	5/7/56	SA memo to file	1	1	b1, b3
390	5/11/56	SA memo to file	2	2	
391	5/10/56	NY Daily News	2	2	
392	5/8/56	Transcript of hearings	53	0	
393	5/9/56	Transcript of hearings	20	0	

Volume No. 12File No. 65-59181

DOCUMENT JUSTIFICATION

Rosenberg Et. Al.

Serial Number	Date of Serial	DELETION (S)
392 393	5/8/56 5/9/56	Serials 392 and 393 are transcripts of hearings held in Executive Session before the Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act and Other Internal Security Laws. Both serials are Congressional documents and are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

U. S. Department of Justice

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

910
910
910

SECTION 121
SERIALS 368-393

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NOV 5 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

WASH 6 FROM PHILADELPHIA

11-5-54

7-19 PM

DIRECTOR.....U R G E N T

THOMAS LESSING BLACK, WAS. ESP - R. RMYTEL NOVEMBER FOUR NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR. BLACK CALLED OFFICE NOVEMBER FOUR NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR AND STATED HE CONFERRED WITH DETECTIVE INSPECTOR JOHN F. DRISCOLL, CAPT. DAVID ROBERTS OF HOMICIDE, BOTH PH PD, AND ASS-T DA JOHN POPOLO, PH, AND INFORMED THEM IN PAREN QUOTE NOT TOO GREAT DETAIL PAREN UNQUOTED OF HIS PAST ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES AND COOPERATION WITH FBI. BLACK STATE THAT THEY SEEMED SATISFIED WITH WHAT HE FURNISHED AND HE BELIEVES THEY WILL NOT QUESTION HIM FURTHER IN THIS REGARD. BLACK EXPECTS TO ASSIST INVESTIGATORS AND FULLY COOPERATE WITH THEM UNTIL PRESENT INQUIRY IS CONCLUDED..

MC CABE

HOLD PLS

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 82

65-59181-368

13 NOV 18 1954

58 NOV 26 1954

42377
UNRECORDED COPY FILED

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 11-19-54

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.,
ESPIONAGE - R

G.I.R. - 9

Re mylet 11-16-54 calling attention to an item which appeared in the November 11, 1954 column of FRANK BROOKHOUSER, Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. I am enclosing herewith the November 19, 1954 column of EARL SELBY in the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin which is entirely devoted to a discussion of BLACK and the position he held at the Berg Plant. It is apparent that SELBY was given access to at least a portion of the statement made by BLACK to the Philadelphia PD and District Attorney's office.

MSH:etc

cc: 34-279 (Black) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
98-2072 (Expl. Berg Lab.)
(2 Bu 3 Ph)

Encl. 1

RECORDED-52 65-59181-369

EX - 107

In Our Town

By Earl Selby

Matter of Degree . . .

FROM THE ACTION WANTED FILE: The D. A. and police investigation of the Berg lab explosion that killed ten firemen has turned up an interesting story about a man named Tasso Lessing Black.

Black has been the consulting chemist for the lab. starting almost ten years ago. As such, he was questioned in City Hall November 4.

Black, who says he legally changed his first name to Thomas, was asked this question by Assistant District Attorney John Papola:

"Are you a graduate from any recognized college or university?"

Black answered: "Penn State, class of '29." Papola wanted to know what degree Black got. The answer: "Bachelor of Science." He then went on to explain he'd studied organic chemistry for two years and repeated that he'd graduated in 1920.

Actually, he didn't . . .

DATE 11-19-54
THE EVENING BULLETIN
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
PAGE 4 COLUMN 1
EDITION: Postscript

65-59181-369

THE QUESTIONING on Nov. 4 was in the presence of a large group, including an attorney representing the Berg laboratories.

The next day Black was questioned again—he volunteered to come in—but this time only Papola and Police Captain Dave Roberts were present. This Q. and A. between Papola and Black took place:

Q. Now, Mr. Black, you previously told us that you were a graduate chemist from Penn State?

A. That is correct.

Q. Is that a fact?

A. No, sir.

Q. It is not. How long did you attend Penn State?

A. Four years, 1925 to 1929.

Q. Did you graduate from Penn State?

A. No, sir.

Black said he had started as a consultant with the Berg lab "in the summer of 1946, to the best of my recollection." The Q. and A. continued:

Q. At that time you were employed as a consultant chemist, is that correct?

A. That is correct.

Q. Were you requested to show any credentials to prove that you were a graduate chemist?

A. No, sir . . .

TO THE INVESTIGATORS that was a significant commentary on how the Berg lab operated.

The investigators concede that, while he was a consulting chemist, Black had nothing to do with mixing any of the chemicals or cleaning the tanks involved in the explosion. As Black explained, he did partly "customer service work . . . ran analyses for customers when that was required; determined the efficiency of the product . . . and (developed) new products."

Black said he was hired on that basis by the late Charles W. Berg, the lab's former operator, starting a few days a week at first and then "practically full time."

But should Black have been hired as a consulting chemist?

Nothing in the law says he couldn't be. And yet the law does say that a corner drugstore must have a graduate—and registered—pharmacist on duty at all times.

Investigators are asking: If a corner druggist must be registered shouldn't anyone working as a chemist in labs or firms dealing with potentially hazardous chemicals also meet some standards set by the state?

In short: Shouldn't everyone hired as a chemist in places with the explosion-potential of firms like the Berg lab be at least a graduate of a recognized college or university?

The investigators think the answer is yes . . .

DIRECTOR, FBI

11-16-54

SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.,
ESPIONAGE - R

Remytels 11-4-54 and 11-5-54 advising of BLACK's contact with the Philadelphia PD and District Attorney's office re telephonic instructions by Mr. CLEVELAND of the Bureau to this office November 8. For the Bureau's further information on 11-11-54 FRANK BROOKHOUSER, columnist for the Philadelphia Bulletin, carried as his lead paragraph the following:

"One of the most sensational stories turned up in the probe of that North Philadelphia chemical plant explosion which claimed the lives of ten firemen still hasn't come out. If it ever does, it will be a shocker. Involves one of the key men at the plant. Both the DA's office and the police have the facts."

On 11-16-54 [REDACTED] of the Homicide Division, Philadelphia PD contacted this office in a routine manner to advise that BLACK had furnished the PD with a signed statement in which he admitted that he was a former Soviet espionage agent and further stated that subsequent to 1951 he had been cooperating with the FBI and was presently on call by the FBI. Further, that he was making the statement at the consent of the FBI. [REDACTED] desired to know whether BLACK was cooperating with us or whether he had lied in an effort to protect himself. On 11-17-54 [REDACTED] was furnished with the information specifically authorized in Mr. CLEVELAND's telephone call, namely, that BLACK had registered under the Foreign Agents' Registration Act, that his statement was withdrawn by the Attorney General in accordance with Section 6 of that Act, and that the statement was part of the confidential files of the Department of Justice. [REDACTED] was not advised of BLACK's past cooperation with the FBI. He said, however, that the information furnished was sufficient for his purposes. b7D

NSH:emc

cc: 11-279 [REDACTED] 11-15-54
98-2072 (Inpl. Werg Lab.)
(2 Bu, 2 Ph)

NOV 22 11 22 AM '54

ORIG BELMONT

EST - 1021ICE
REC'D 9 10 11

cc H. H. Belmont
H. H. Wallace

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

November 24, 1954

Director, FBI

THOMAS LESSING BLACK, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - R

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Explosion of Chemical
Storage Tank, Charles B. Berg Laboratories,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
October 28, 1954
SABOTAGE

Reference our memorandum dated November 10, 1954,
entitled as above. Set forth below are pertinent develop-
ments since that date. On November 11, 1954, Frank
Brookhouser, columnist for the Philadelphia bulletin,
carried as his lead paragraph, the following:

"One of the most sensational stories
turned up in the probe of that North
Philadelphia chemical plant explosion,
which claimed the lives of ten firemen,
still hasn't come out. If it ever does,
it will be a shocker. Involves one of
the key men at the plant. Both the
D.A.'s office and the police have the facts."

On November 16, 1954, [REDACTED]
of the Homicide Division, Philadelphia Police Department,
contacted our Philadelphia office in a routine manner,
advising that Thomas Lessing Black had furnished the
police department with a signed statement, in which he
admitted that he was a former Soviet espionage agent and
in which he stated that subsequent to 1951, he had been
cooperating with the FBI and was presently on call by the
FBI. According to [REDACTED] Black set forth in his
statement that he was making the same at the consent of
the FBI. [REDACTED] desired to know from our
Philadelphia office whether Black was cooperating with the
FBI or whether he had lied in an effort to protect himself.

LHW:egp
(5)

SEE NOTE ON PAGE 2

COMM - FBI

NOV 24 1954

MAILED 30

DECLASSIFIED BY 1913
ON 2/9/78

RECORDED - 5

NOV 26 1954

145

65-59181-370

WAR

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

b7D

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On November 17, 1954, [REDACTED] was furnished with the information specifically as authorized by you, that "Black did register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, February 25, 1953, but the statement filed by him was withdrawn by the Attorney General in accordance with Section 6 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and his statement, therefore, is part of the confidential files of the Department of Justice." [REDACTED] on being furnished the above authorized statement, stated that the information furnished was sufficient for his purposes. The above is being furnished for your information and no action is contemplated by the Bureau. b7D

65-5918 --

NOTE: On 10/28/54, a chemical storage tank at Charles D. Berg Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa., exploded while being examined by Philadelphia firemen. One Deputy and 2 Battalion fire chiefs were killed. Twenty firemen and 3 policemen were injured. Thomas L. Black, a registered foreign agent whose registration statement was withdrawn by the Attorney General from public perusal, is presently employed Berg Laboratories. Berg Laboratories' attorney remarked Black and others would be arrested for negligence in storing chemicals after background investigation conducted. Department authorized Bureau to furnish Philadelphia P.D. statement as set forth in communication above. This was done. Black has stated he is cooperating with the police dept. and advised them of his Soviet espionage activities, "in not too great detail" and his cooperation with the Bureau. No action necessary by the Bureau except to transmit present developments to the Dept. as set forth above.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 4/28/55

THOMAS L. BLACK, while being interviewed on 4/20/55 regarding other cases, advised that he would soon resign his position with the Charles W. Berg Laboratories, Philadelphia, due to personality conflicts with the present owners. BLACK intends to go into business with a former employee of Charles W. Berg Laboratories, one PERCY HELIE. Their business will be known as the Helie Chemical Company with headquarters in Worcester, Mass. HELIE resides in Worcester, Mass. They will manufacture textile specialties. The actual manufacture of the specialties will take place at the Atlas Refinery Company, 142 Lockwood Street, Newark 5, N. J., telephone number Market 2-7143. BLACK will be employed at the Newark, N. J., location. BLACK will live at R.D. 1, Englishtown, N. J., in care of VICTOR DECKER, JR. DECKER is the owner of the Atlas Refinery Company. BLACK expects that he will move within the next two weeks, although as of this date he has not given notice of his resignation to the Charles W. Berg Laboratories.

BLACK requested when he is contacted by FBI agents at his new employment that discretion be used so that the Atlas Refinery Company will not be aware the FBI is contacting him. In other words, BLACK suggested that agents telephonically ask for him personally without identifying themselves to any employee of the Atlas Refinery Company. BLACK in turn will go to the FBI office in Newark during his lunch hour or after working hours.

BLACK also requested that the government return to him certain books and pamphlets that were taken from him at the time he was first interrogated by the FBI in 1950. BLACK recalls executing a consent-to-search form during the pertinent time in 1950 but states he no longer has the receipts for the material that was removed. According to his best recollection, BLACK states the material included the following:

REGISTERED MAIL

CS:RJV
(2BU, 1NK, 1NY, 1BS, 1PH)

RECORDED - 43

INDEXED - 43

65-59181-371

cc: 1 - Newark (65-4074)(Info.)(RM)
1 - New York (65-15338)(Info.)(RM)
1 - Boston (Info.)(RM)

2 1355

3-0

PH (65-4332)
Director, FBI

4/28/55

1. Certain books, names not recalled, on Marxism and Leninism.
2. Chemical notes that were made by him at various laboratories.
3. Magazine clippings from various technical journals, mainly chemical journals.
4. Certain Communist pamphlets, the names of which pamphlets BLACK could not recall and of which he does not have a record.
5. Certain technical books, the names of which BLACK again could not recall.

BLACK states that he wants these books and pamphlets because they are part of his personal library, adding that he never destroys any books in his library. When pressed for a more explicit reason why he wanted these books, BLACK said that sometime in the future he would like to do a little writing "somewhat like the writing of Elizabeth Bentley and Whittaker Chambers." BLACK added that if necessary, he could again purchase these same books and pamphlets in New York City near Union Square, but he would rather have back the books and pamphlets that belong to him. He mentioned he knew of a federal case involving obscene literature in which the government had to return the literature after the individual who owned the literature had served his sentence. BLACK also stated his writings would be "anti-Communist" and the books and pamphlets he is requesting would be used as reference material. He also stated he fully intends to show any of his writing to the FBI before it is published. It was explained to BLACK that the FBI does not censor or clear any articles for publication. BLACK was cautioned that he would have to be most circumspect in order not to reveal any confidential information.

The above is being brought to the Bureau's attention for information. It is pointed out that on page 200 of the report of SA WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR., dated 7/26/50 in captioned matter, there is set forth information concerning the searches that were conducted during the investigation of BLACK. Some searches were conducted at BLACK's residence, at that time, 1929 North 6th Street. Other searches were conducted of his effects which were in storage at the Van Poznak Fireproof Warehouse, 92 Howard Street, Newark, N. J.

PH (65-4332)
Director, FBI

4/28/55

It is pointed out that the prosecutive opinion of AUSA MORTON FINE, EDPa., was obtained concerning subject. This opinion is contained in the report of SA PAUL B. GIBSON at Philadelphia, dated 6/8/53. FINE at that time stated that after a careful review of all material relating to the subject, he is of the opinion that evidence was insufficient to sustain a conviction under the perjury, misprision of felony, and espionage statutes, and for that reason he contemplated no further action regarding BLACK.

Since the prosecutive opinion of the AUSA, EDPa., was obtained concerning subject, it is possible that the question of the return of the aforementioned material to BLACK should be discussed with the same USA's office, i.e., in the EDPa. However, no action is being taken in this matter without Bureau authority.

This office recommends that any contemplated return of the material BLACK requested be delayed as long as possible on the theory that if he does not have the material, it is not very likely that he will be able to write as he contemplates.

This office in the meantime will conduct a review of the exhibits in the BLACK case in an attempt to locate the books and pamphlets BLACK has reference to.

2. Crier - Wallace

SAC, Philadelphia (Orig. & 1)

May 12, 1955

Director, FBI 65-59181-371

RECORDED - 39
THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Reurlet 4/28/55.

In view of the fact that the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice as well as the Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, have declined prosecution of the subject, and inasmuch as both have indicated that they contemplate no further action, there is no apparent reason why the subject's property, presently in the possession of the Philadelphia office, should not be returned to him.

However, in view of the fact that reflet indicates that the subject is contemplating writing articles or a book in the future as Elizabeth Bentley and Whittaker Chambers have done, the Philadelphia office should make an extremely careful review of Black's property and present the results of said review to the Assistant US Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, for opinion as to its return to the subject, Thomas Lessing Black. In the event the Philadelphia office as a result of such review finds material of a confidential nature as distinguished from public source material, this should be carefully evaluated and the Bureau's advice obtained if same appears warranted prior to presentation to the United States Attorney.

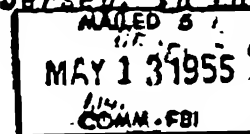
A copy of this letter is being furnished to the Newark field division in view of the fact that your reflet indicates that Thomas Lessing Black will be employed at Newark, New Jersey, in the near future, and will live at R.D. 1, Englishtown, New Jersey, in care of Victor Decker, Jr.

1 - Newark (Information)

A cover memo from Belmont to Boardman was prepared by HHW:alp on 5/10/55 in connection with this outgoing mail.

HHW:alp:dlt

(5)



Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

MAY 25 1955

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

DATE: May 10, 1955

FROM : A. H. Belmont *ph*

Tolson _____
 Boardman _____
 Nichols _____
 Belmont _____
 Harbo _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
 Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Black has requested the return of certain books and papers from the FBI which were taken with his consent in 1950. He indicates a desire to write in the future, as Bentley and Chambers have done.

Black, a registered foreign agent whose registration statement was withdrawn by the AG from public perusal in 1953, was born 7/5/07, at Bloomsburg, Pa. He has admitted becoming involved with the Soviets in 1934. He has admitted contacting and sometimes furnishing information to Gaik Ovakimian and subsequent Soviet espionage superiors in 1934-47. The information consisted of industrial secrets (including chemical formulas for penicillin and sorbitol) obtained from various companies by which Black was employed. By memoranda 4/30/51 and 5/20/53, the Criminal Division of the Department advised no prosecutive action against Black was contemplated. As a result of testimony before the Federal Grand Jury, Eastern District of Pa., October 2, 3, & 4, 1952, Black was requested and did register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, as amended. Subsequently his registration statement was withdrawn from public examination. On 6/4/53, the Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of Pa., advised evidence was insufficient to sustain a conviction of Black under perjury, misprison of felony, and espionage statutes, and that no further action was contemplated.

There appears to be no reason for the retention of property belonging to Black obtained from him with his consent. However, due to the fact there is some indication he is contemplating writing articles or books based on the same, it is believed that the material should be carefully reviewed by the Philadelphia field office and a list of Black's property should be furnished to the Assistant US Attorney, Eastern District of Pa., whose opinion should be sought as to its return to Black.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Philadelphia office review all exhibits in its possession in instant case and draft a list

Enclosure *1/2*

HHW:alp

(4)

cc - 1 - Boardman

cc - 1 - Belmont

cc - 1 - Wallace

12 MAY 17 1955

65-59181-372

50 MAY 1955

of those exhibits which are the property of the subject, Black. This list should be presented to the Assistant US Attorney for the Eastern District of Pa., for his opinion as to their return to the subject at this time. A letter to this effect is enclosed for transmittal to the Philadelphia office and a copy will be designated for the Newark office inasmuch as Philadelphia has advised that the subject is obtaining employment in the Newark field division and has requested that any future interviews be conducted at the FBI office in Newark.

✓

OK.
9/1

Mr.

Jim

82

11/11/44

no

11/11/44

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

NH:mc
en

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181) DATE: 5-26-55
FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (134-279) *177, 178*
SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Re SAC Letter 55-35 (0).

Under the provisions of the SAC Letter this individual is being converted from a confidential source to a source of information.

NH:emc
REGISTERED MAIL
(2 Bu 1 Ph)

EX-122

RECORDED

65-59181-373

8 MAY 31 1955

103 JUN 3 1955

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (34-279)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
SOURCE OF INFORMATION

DATE: 6/30/55

Re Philadelphia letter, dated April 28, 1955, under the caption "THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.; ESPIONAGE - R," and Philadelphia letter, dated May 26, 1955, under above caption.

Referenced Philadelphia letter dated April 28, 1955, pointed out that THOMAS L. BLACK requested the return of certain property belonging to him that is in the possession of the Philadelphia Office. This office is presently reviewing the exhibits in the BLACK case with the view towards presenting the results of said review to the Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, for opinion as to whether BLACK's property should be returned to him.

This same letter also set forth that Subject is contemplating writing articles or a book in the future as ELIZABETH BENTLEY and WHITTAKER CHAMBERS have done.

Referenced Philadelphia letter dated May 26, 1955, advised that under provisions of SAC Letter 55-35(0), BLACK was being converted from a confidential source to a source of information.

In view of the fact that Subject intends to write articles or a book, it is not believed possible to certify as to his stability. It is, therefore, recommended that he be deleted as a source of information. It is, however, recognized that cases will probably arise in the future which will require that BLACK be interviewed. In such cases, there does not appear to be any reason why he cannot be contacted

CS/mmr
(2 BU, 2 NK, 2 PH)

REGISTERED MAIL

cc: 2 - Newark (65-4074) (REGISTERED)

PH 65-4332

RECORDED - 81

65-59181-374

30 JUL 5 1955

PH 134-279
Director, FBI

6/30/55

since his identity is disclosed in Bureau reports and he is described as "an admitted Soviet agent." The only difference in his status appears to be that since it is not possible to certify as to his stability, he should not be listed as a source of information.

[REDACTED], United States **b7D, b7C**
Post Office, 30th and Market Streets, advised SA CHARLES SILVERTHORN on June 28, 1955, that BLACK as of May 1, 1955, listed a change of address from 530 West Berks Street, Philadelphia, to Box 243, R.D. #1, Elizabethtown, New Jersey. It is pointed out in Philadelphia letter dated April 28, 1955, that BLACK advised SA CHARLES SILVERTHORN that he was moving to R.D. #1, Englishtown, New Jersey.

It is suggested that Newark verify BLACK's correct current address in order that any forthcoming leads for the interview of BLACK may be handled promptly.

~~This office will close BLACK's 134 file with this letter.~~ **b7D**

The Bureau will be kept advised regarding the review of the exhibits in the BLACK case under the 65 classification.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-1332) (134-279)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
SOURCE OF INFORMATION
OO - Philadelphia

DATE: 8/8/55

Re Newark letter, dated 7/22/55, and Philadelphia letter, dated 6/30/55.

Referenced Newark letter verified BLACK's address as being RD #1, Box 243, Englishtown, New Jersey, c/o VICTOR DECKER.

Newark is in receipt of referenced Philadelphia letter wherein BLACK was deleted as a source of information in the Philadelphia office inasmuch as he plans to write a book and therefore, his stability could not be certified.

Philadelphia is presently reviewing the exhibits in the BLACK case, it being noted BLACK is desirous of having certain property returned to him, and Newark, which is being considered office of origin, will be advised of the results of this review.

MCC:irb
 (2 BU, 2 PH, 2 NK)

REGISTERED MAIL

cc: 2 Newark (65-4074) RM

58 AUG 16 1955

EX-103

14 AUG 11 1955

*Phila. file
 It to reach Bureau by 10-3-55 explaining
 status*
 RECORDED - 65-5918-376
 INDEXED - 9
 H.H. [signature]
 [signature]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Albany

DATE: August 18, 1955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~FROM: *JMT* Director, FBI (66-18772)SUBJECT: ESPIONAGE AND INTERNAL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS
(FULL UTILIZATION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS
AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION)

Re Bulet 6/3/55.(u)

The following changes should be made concerning individuals previously included in this program:(u)

Leads to interview [REDACTED], referred to b7D
in No Number SAC Letter dated 5/4/50 and SAC Letter 54-63,
should be set forth only in those instances where there is
sound reason to believe that he possesses pertinent
information of importance to an investigation. [REDACTED] b7C 301

Thomas Lessing Black, referred to in No Number
SAC Letter dated 2/3/51, has been discontinued as a source
of information and should be deleted.(u)

cc - 2 - Albuquerque	cc - 2 - Houston	cc - 2 - Oklahoma City
Anchorage	Indianapolis	Omaha
Atlanta	Kansas City	Philadelphia
Baltimore	Knoxville	Phoenix
Birmingham	Little Rock	Pittsburgh
Boston	Los Angeles	Portland
Buffalo	Louisville	Richmond
Butte	Memphis	St. Louis
Charlotte	Miami	Salt Lake City
Chicago	Milwaukee	San Antonio
Cincinnati	Minneapolis	San Diego
Cleveland	Mobile	San Francisco
Dallas	Newark	San Juan
Denver	New Haven	Savannah
Detroit	New Orleans	Seattle
El Paso	New York City	Springfield
Honolulu	Norfolk	Washington Field

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 66-18772-111

65-59181
NOT RECORDED
199 AUG 25 1955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter to SAC, Albany

[REDACTED]
b1

Caution should be exercised in considering possible use of [REDACTED] referred to in SAC Letter 54-1) as a Government witness in view of a recent incident arising in connection with his testimony at an INS hearing. b7D, (u) b7C

[REDACTED]
b1

[REDACTED]
b1

[REDACTED]
b1

[REDACTED]
b1

[REDACTED]
b1

[REDACTED]
b1

[REDACTED]
b1

[REDACTED] referred to in No Number SAC Letter dated 5/4/50, is now [REDACTED] b7D

Letter to SAC, Albany

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] referred to in SAC Letters 53-61 and 54-63 and Bulet dated 3/21/55, has been discontinued as symbol b7D
for [REDACTED] His identity should be protected by
temporary symbol. (u)

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b1

If prepared, index cards concerning the above-captioned individuals should be amended accordingly. (u)

The following additional confidential informants and sources of information are set forth for your information and utilization: (u)

[REDACTED] b1

Letter to SAC, Albany

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 9/30/55

Re Bulet dated 5/12/55.

Relet instructed that this office should make an extremely careful review of subject's property that is in the possession of the Philadelphia Police and present the results of said review to the Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, for opinion as to its return to the subject. The Bureau also instructed that if Philadelphia, as a result of such review, finds material of a confidential nature as distinguished from public source material, this should be carefully evaluated and the Bureau's advice obtained if same appears warranted prior to presentation to the United States Attorney.

From a review of the material thus far, it is contemplated that the following items, which are not considered to be of a confidential nature, will be listed for the AUSA's opinion as to whether the items should be returned to subject:

1. Certain items contained in a green metal box, which box was removed by Newark Agents from among personal effects of subject stored at the Van Poznak Storage Warehouse, Lot #773, Box #3, 92 Howard Street, Newark, on 6/17/50. These items, as well as other items listed below, were removed by Newark Agents as a result of a consent to search executed by BLACK on 6/15/50.

Generally these items include clippings from newspapers and magazines, a Certificate of Birth, and assorted keys.

CS/kog

(2 BU, 1 NK, 2 PH)

CC: Newark (65-4074)

PH 234-279

RECORDED - 5

65-59181-377

REGISTERED MAIL

59 OCT 10 1955

OCT 3 1955

EX-113

DIRECTOR, FBI

9/30/55

2. Certain items removed by Newark Agents on 6/17/50 from above-mentioned warehouse, Lot #446, Box #53. These items include pamphlets and booklets on biology.
3. Items taken by Newark Agents on 6/17/50 from the aforementioned warehouse, Lot #446, Box #74. These include a number of books of a medical nature and 99 stubs showing requests for copies of U. S. Patents and dates they were ordered from Patent Office. When questioned regarding the U. S. Patents, BLACK, in 1950, mentioned he was a Consultant Chemist for C. W. Berg Laboratories and in such position it was necessary to develop new processes and new products. BLACK wrote to the U. S. Patent Office for patents to be used in doing research work for new processes.
4. Items taken by Newark Agents on 6/17/50 from the same warehouse, Lot #446, Box #79. These consist of a "homemade" file with appropriate topic separators containing correspondence, booklets and pamphlets on chemistry and photography. BLACK, when questioned about these items in 1950, mentioned he was interested in photography as a hobby and collected voluminous literature on photography to further his hobby. He also mentioned, in connection with his position as a Consultant Chemist, he collects all available literature on chemistry to assist him in doing research work.
5. Certain personal papers, magazines, newspaper clippings and numerous copies of U. S. Patents which were taken from subject's home, 1929 North 6th Street, on 6/16/50 as a result of a consent to search executed by BLACK.
6. Certain cards, papers and photostatic copies of chemical documents taken from subject's desk at his place of employment, C. W. Berg Laboratories, 1827 North 5th Street, on 6/16/50.

PH 65-4332

DIRECTOR, FBI

9/30/55

7. Two books on Chemistry taken by Newark Agents on 6/21/50 from the aforementioned warehouse, Lot #773, Box #35.

It is contemplated that a detailed list of the above items prepared in a blank memo form will be made available to the AUSA for opinion as to their return to subject. The original of this blank memo will be used as a receipt from subject if AUSA approves the return of the material.

There are a number of Marxist books and pamphlets which will be listed in a separate blank memo. Although these are apparently public source material, they are of such a comprehensive nature on the subject of Marxism and Leninism that it is felt they should be listed separately for the AUSA's convenience in rendering a decision rather than having them included with voluminous other miscellaneous items to be returned.

The Bureau will be kept advised of pertinent developments.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
(Origin: Newark)

DATE: 12/5/55

Mr. W. WILSON WHITE, U. S. Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, was contacted on 12/5/55 by SA ALBERT RUND-BAKEN regarding this case. Inasmuch as Mr. WHITE was not familiar with this case, he was advised of the prosecutive opinion of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department and the opinion of former Assistant U. S. Attorney MORTON FINE, Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mr. WHITE was also advised that BLACK had requested the return of certain material which was taken from him by Philadelphia Agents pursuant to a consent to search form executed by BLACK in 1950. It was explained that this office was presently reviewing the material in question and the results of said review would be presented to the United States Attorney for opinion as to its return to the subject.

Mr. WHITE stated he would arrange for an Assistant U. S. Attorney to review this material; however, because of a very heavy schedule of criminal trials being handled by his office during the current criminal calendar, his entire staff would be occupied for the next several weeks. Mr. WHITE volunteered to arrange to have an Assistant U. S. Attorney available for the review of this material in the event some "lull" occurs in the criminal trial schedule prior to the completion of this criminal term.

In view of the above, contact will again be made in about three weeks with Mr. WHITE regarding this matter.

- 2 - Bureau (65-59181) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 2 - Newark (65-4074) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Philadelphia (65-4332)
- 1 - Philadelphia (134-279)

CPS:rdc
(6)

65-59181-378
20 DEC 6 1955

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 1/16/56

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, wa.
ESPIONAGE - R

(Origin - Newark)

Re Philadelphia letter, 12/5/55.

Re Philadelphia letter pointed out that Mr. W. WILSON WHITE, USA, EDPa., was contacted on 12/5/55, by SA ALBERT RUNDBAKEN regarding the disposition of certain material which was taken from subject in 1950. Mr. WHITE at that time stated he would arrange for an Assistant USA to review this material; however, because of a very heavy schedule of criminal trials, his entire staff would be occupied for several weeks. Mr. WHITE volunteered to arrange to have an Assistant USA available for a review of this material in the event a "lull" occurred in the criminal trial schedule.

On 12/20/55, Mr. W. WILSON WHITE, USA, EDPa., advised SA ALBERT RUNDBAKEN that he took the liberty of communicating with the Department of Justice regarding the disposition of subject's personal property which was presently in the possession of the Philadelphia Office. Mr. WHITE communicated with Mr. THOMAS K. HALL of the Department of Justice relative to the return to BLACK of the personal property which BLACK requested. Mr. HALL advised Mr. WHITE that inasmuch as no prosecution of BLACK was contemplated by the Department, the return of all of BLACK's personal property was authorized by the Department of Justice.

In view of the above, the Philadelphia Office will make a list in blank memorandum form of BLACK's property that he requested and send the memorandum along with the property to the Newark Office for return to BLACK. The original of this blank memorandum can then be used as a receipt for the return of the requested material. Where there is a question of any of the material being of a confidential nature as distinguished from public source material, the Bureau's advice will be sought prior to the return of the material to BLACK.

- 2 - Bureau (65-59181) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - Newark (65-4074) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - Philadelphia (65-4332)

RECORDED - 98

CP3:ARD
(4)

JAN 17 1956

65-59181-379

OTT-77

9442

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 1/30/56

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, wa.
ESPIONAGE - R
O.O. - Newark

Re Philadelphia letter to Bureau, 1/16/55.

Since this case is kept in a pending status solely for the purpose of returning certain material to the subject, the case is being placed in a pending inactive status until such time as the material is received from the Philadelphia Office and can be returned to BLACK.

2-Bureau (65-59181) RM
1-Philadelphia (65-4332) (info) RM
1-Newark (65-4074)

FCZ:AM

(4)

65-59181-380

RECORDED-20

FEB 1 1956

64 FEB 7 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
 (OO - Newark)

DATE: 2/13/56

Re Philadelphia letter 1/16/55.

Re Philadelphia letter set forth the opinion of Mr. W. WILSON WHITE, USA, EDPA, as obtained from Mr. THOMAS K. HALL of the Department of Justice relative to the return of subject's personal property, which is presently in the possession of the Philadelphia Office. Mr. HALL advised Mr. WHITE that inasmuch as no prosecution of BLACK was contemplated by the Department, the return of all of BLACK's personal property was authorized by the Department of Justice.

Re letter also set forth that Philadelphia would make a list in blank memo form of BLACK's property and send the memo along with the property to the Newark Office.

There is enclosed herewith for Newark, an original and two copies of an 18 page receipt listing 369 items of BLACK's personal property to be returned to him. The original of this receipt is to be signed by BLACK and witnessed by an agent or agents of the Newark Office and then returned to the Philadelphia Office. One copy of the receipt has been designated for the Newark Office and the extra copy may be given to BLACK if he desires same. The property so listed is being forwarded by Railway Express to the Newark Office under separate cover.

Certain items of BLACK's property are not being returned at this time. No mention of this should be made by the Newark Agents, unless it is brought to their attention by BLACK. These items will be discussed in a separate communication to the Bureau.

- 2 - Bureau (65-59181) (REG. MAIL)
- 2 - Newark (1 - 65-4074) (Encls. 3) (REG. MAIL)
- (1 - PACKAGE)
- 1 - Philadelphia (65-4332)

CPS:EAM
 (5)

RECORDED - 21

65-59181-381

01 sent 2/14/56
 to Newark by Phila

2-1 for 3-14-56
 2-1 for 3-27-56
 2-1 for 3-27-56
 2-1 for 3-27-56

2/14/56

PH 65-4332
Director, FBI

It is pointed out that during June and July of 1950, many items of BLACK's personal property were returned to him inasmuch as they were not considered pertinent to the investigation. The receipts executed by BLACK at that time are on file in the Philadelphia Office.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 3/8/56

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
OO Newark

Re Philadelphia letter to Bureau dated 2/13/56.

On 3/5/56 the items of BLACK's property forwarded to Newark and listed in the office memorandum furnished to Newark with referenced letter were returned to BLACK. BLACK spent some time going through the material and discarding that which he did not desire to keep.

The original memorandum listing the property and signed by BLACK is returned herewith to Philadelphia. A copy of this memorandum signed by BLACK and the extra copy not signed are being maintained in the Newark Office.

BLACK advised that some of his property had not been returned and requested that he be informed of exactly what items are still being held. He mentioned that a wooden box about 7" long containing 2" x 2" color slides of water lilies and another group of slides containing about twenty-five to thirty photographs of LEON TROTSKY were missing. He said also missing were two reels of 35mm. motion picture film, one containing a speech made by LEON TROTSKY in Berlin and the other film taken at the time of TROTSKY's assassination.

BLACK stated that the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (SWP) had purchased those films and when he was in the SWP they were given to him for safe keeping. He said that he risked his life by not turning the film over to his Soviet contact since the Soviets did want to have any material concerning TROTSKY destroyed.

In view of the fact that he kept the film from the Soviets, BLACK says that he has a special interest in it and wants to see some use made of it. He suggested that since it

② - Bureau (65-59181) REGISTERED MAIL
2 - Philadelphia (65-4332) (Encl. 1) REGISTERED MAIL
1 - Newark (65-4074)

PCZ:ejm

(5)

RECORDED - 67

65-59181-382

MAR 10 1956

W. J. [signature]
ESP. [signature]

NK 65-4074

has historical and documentary value it should be donated some place like the Harvard Museum which he knows has some material on TROTSKY. BLACK said that he has no personal interest in having the film himself but if the Bureau will not give it directly to some organization which would be interested in its historical value, he desires its return so that he can dispose of it in some way so that its historical value is preserved.

In view of BLACK's statements, Philadelphia is requested to advise the Bureau and Newark what material of BLACK's was not returned and the reason therefor. Newark should be advised what BLACK can be told concerning this property especially the film which he appeared most interested in. Unless the film and other material still retained have some particular value to the Bureau, it would appear appropriate to return it to BLACK and let him dispose of it as he sees fit.

It is suggested that as soon as Philadelphia advises concerning the property of BLACK still in its possession, the Bureau advise Philadelphia and Newark what action should be taken.

4/3/52
not necessary
see serial 984

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R
OO - Newark

DATE: 3/27/56

E. I. R. 10

Re Philadelphia letter 2/13/56; Newark letter 3/8/56.

Referenced Philadelphia letter enclosed to Newark an original and two copies of an 18-page receipt listing 369 items of BLACK's personal property, which were to be returned to him. Referenced Philadelphia letter also mentioned that certain items were not being returned at that time. Although it is realized that these items were BLACK's property, still they deal generally in the field of subversive activity and, for this reason, they were retained.

The following are the only remaining items of BLACK's property still retained by Philadelphia:

1. 1932 CP Membership Book #6878 issued to HAROLD L. JONES. (BLACK on 7/6/50 stated this was his CP Membership Book and that he had used the name HAROLD L. JONES.)
2. 1937 Socialist Party Membership Book in the name of THOMAS L. BLACK. (BLACK on 6/30/50 advised he joined the Trotskyite faction of the Socialist Party in 1937 and he identified this item as his Socialist Party Membership Book.)
3. 1941 Socialist Workers Party (SWP) Membership Book #3854 issued to T. JONES. (BLACK on 7/6/50 admitted this was his SWP Membership Book and that he had used the name TOM JONES.)

RECORDED - 10

- 3 - Bureau (65-59181) (REGISTERED MAIL)
(1 - with package)
2 - Newark (65-4074) (REGISTERED MAIL)
1 - Philadelphia (65-4332)

CS:PRD
(6)

65-59181-384

C. I. R.
4/3/56

PH 65-4332
Director, FBI

3/27/56

4. One sheet, handwritten, entitled "Appeal Meeting (August 4)." On the bottom of this same sheet is the caption "Appeal Meeting (August 11)." (BLACK on 6/24/50 mentioned that he was Secretary of the Trotskyite Faction of the SWP and that these were notes in his own handwriting of two meetings held on August 4 and August 11, 1937.)
5. Typewritten letter from Coyoacan, Mexico, dated 1/31/37 and signed in ink by LEON TROTSKY. The letter was addressed "My dear friends" and concerns a pamphlet TROTSKY was apparently writing about the "Moscow Frame-Up." (BLACK has advised that at the September, 1940, Plenum Conference of the SWP in Chicago, it was decided that a committee should be established to preserve the historical record of LEON TROTSKY. Requests were made for any historical documents, letters, original manuscripts, and photographs pertaining to LEON TROTSKY. This letter is apparently one of the items to be maintained as a part of the historical record of LEON TROTSKY.)
6.
 - A. Numerous 3 x 5" index cards bearing names and addresses and various financial data. (Philadelphia letter to the Bureau dated 6/22/50 mentioned that from information furnished by BLACK, it is believed these were names of people who were members of the SWP in the Newark area about 1939.)
 - B. Yellow sheet dated 6/21/39 containing list of 12 persons in Newark area who were to be approached for contributions to Anti-Fascist Labor Guard. (On 6/28/50 BLACK advised that the Anti-Fascist Labor Guard was part of the Union Defense Guard. The Union Defense Guard was set up as a branch of the SWP at Newark. According to BLACK, the Anti-Fascist Labor Guard was an unsuccessful venture of the SWP.)

Regarding A and B, the above items were photographed,

PH 65-4332
Director, FBI

3/27/56

forwarded to the Bureau for development and subsequent shipment of same to Newark for information in their investigation of SWP activities in the Newark area.

7. Booklet entitled "Drill Manual of the Anti-Fascist Labor Guard." (BLACK on 6/28/50 advised the drill manual was received from the Union Defense Guard, which, as previously mentioned, was part of the SWP. The manual was issued to all members of the Union Defense Guard. While the manual pertained to close order and combat drill, the Newark organization, according to BLACK, never engaged in anything other than wrestling or jiu-jitsu one or two nights a week.
8.
 - A. Two rolls of 35 millimeter motion picture film, one of which deals with the death of TROTSKY and his funeral and the other concerns a speech made by TROTSKY in Berlin, according to BLACK.
 - B. Three boxes of mounted photographic slides of LEON TROTSKY numbered one through 84 in black and white color. Also 12 colored slides, eight of which are shots of TROTSKY and four are other individuals who have been identified by BLACK. Also six colored, unmounted negatives, all of TROTSKY.
 - C. A 5 x 8 box containing 3½ x 4½ photographic negatives of LEON TROTSKY.

BLACK's desires regarding these items are set forth in referenced Newark letter, paragraphs four, five, and six. BLACK mentioned that the SWP had purchased these films and they were given to him for safekeeping. According to BLACK, he risked his life by not turning the films over to the Soviets and, because he kept the films from the Soviets, BLACK says he has a special interest in them and wants to see some use made of them. BLACK suggested that since the films have historical and documentary value, they should be

PH 65-4332
Director, FBI

3/27/56

donated to some place, like the Harvard Museum, which has some material on TROTSKY. BLACK says he has no special interest in having the films himself but, if the Bureau will not give them directly to some organization which would be interested in their historical value, he desired that the films be returned so that he can dispose of them in some way in order that their historical value will be preserved.

Items A, B, and C under category eight are being forwarded to the Bureau under separate cover as of possible interest to the Research Section in the event that section desires to make copies of same. Since BLACK has specifically requested the return of these items, it is suggested that, in the event the Central Research Section has no interest in these items, they be sent to Newark for return to BLACK.

9. Booklets entitled --

- "Program of the Communist Internationale"
copyrighted in 1929 by the Workers
Library Publishers
 - "The Communist Party - A Manual of Organization"
by J. PETERS, published July, 1935, by
Workers Library Publishers
 - "Political Education - The Ultimate Aim" by
International Publishers
 - "Political Education - Chief Stages in History
of CP, SU" by International Publishers
- (On 6/30/50 these books were exhibited to BLACK and he identified them as being his property.)

The above booklets have, in the past, been used as source material in the Philadelphia Smith Act trials. Newark is requested to contact BLACK, advise him these booklets are rare originals and of possible future value to the FBI, and request his permission for the Philadelphia Office to retain them.

PH 65-4332
Director, FBI

3/27/56

Newark should also advise BLACK of the identity of the remaining items retained by Philadelphia. In the event BLACK desires the return of all of the items, Philadelphia could make photostatic copies of the originals, with the exception of the films and the booklets, before returning same to BLACK.

Referenced Newark letter set forth that BLACK asked about certain films and slides. Information concerning these films and slides has been set forth under Category Eight of this letter. One other item BLACK mentioned, which is set forth in referenced Newark letter as the wooden box containing 2" x 2" colored slides of water lilies, was forwarded to Newark for return to BLACK with Philadelphia letter of 2/13/56. This is listed on page ten of the 18-page receipt signed by BLACK under the caption number 446, box number 64.

tion tickler

Corman

Wallace

nal and copy

1 - ... w file copy

1 - Package

SAC, Newark (65-4074)

April 3, 1956

Director, FBI (65-59181) - 384

THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Relet Philadelphia 3/27/56, a copy of which was furnished your office.

The two rolls of 35 millimeter motion picture film as well as the photographic negatives of Trotsky, which are described in relet, are being forwarded your office under separate cover. This material should be returned to Black in accordance with his request.

1 - Philadelphia (65-4332)

JFC:mfl mfl
(8)

NOTE: Relet transmitted two rolls of 35 millimeter motion picture film depicting various scenes from Trotsky's life as well as four small boxes of both color and black and white photographic negatives of Trotsky. This material is of no value to the Central Research, Internal Security or Espionage Sections. Black has requested the return of this material when it is no longer of use to the Bureau. He feels it may be of some historical value and desires to donate it to some university or research institute.

APR 3 3 40 PM '56
FBI - NEWARK
REC'D RESEARCH

APR 11 1956

COMM - FBI

APR 3 - 1956

MAILED 20

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 4/20/56

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

OO: Newark

Re: Philadelphia letter to the Bureau, 3/27/56
Bureau letter to Newark, 4/3/56

On 4/13/56, the two rolls of 35 mm motion picture film, as well as the photographic slides and negatives of LEON TROTSKY, were returned to THOMAS BLACK. He signed a receipt for this material, a copy of which is being furnished to the Philadelphia Office.

BLACK was informed of the remaining items of his property still in the possession of the Philadelphia Office. He advised that the only items which he is interested in receiving are the four booklets listed in Item #9 of re Philadelphia letter. BLACK stated that these booklets would be of value in connection with any writing he may do in the future. He added, however, that he has no plans to do any writing for a few years and, therefore, he has no objection to the Philadelphia Office retaining the booklets for the next few years, or until he decides he needs them, at which time he will request their return. BLACK said he felt that by that time the booklets would probably be of no further value to the Bureau.

BLACK was told that the booklets would not be destroyed and that they would be retained by the Philadelphia Office until such time as he requests their return.

Philadelphia is requested to advise Newark if this arrangement is satisfactory, and, if so, should make the proper notations on the exhibits so that they will not be destroyed in the future.

2-Bureau (Registered Mail)
2-Philadelphia (65-4332) (1-enclosure) (Registered Mail)
1-Newark

FCZ:emt
(5)

65-59181-385

APR 23 1956

APR 26 1956

Ok file 6-22-56
RWB 7-9-56 H.H.W./gln

NK 65-4074

Letter to Director, FBI

BLACK continues to be very cooperative and has advised that he has no objection to being contacted in the future for the purposes of viewing photographs and determining if he can identify various individuals. He advised that after 5/1/56 his residence address will be 708 High Street, Apt. B-2, Newark, New Jersey. He is still employed at the Atlas Refinery, Inc., Newark.

Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

MAY 7, 1956

SAC'S, NEWARK (65-4074)
PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)
WASHINGTON FIELD (65-1775) (BCS)

THOMAS LESSING BLACK, ESPIONAGE - R. RE PH AIRTEL MAY FOUR
LAST REQUESTING BUREAU TO INSTRUCT NK WHETHER BLACK SHOULD BE
REMINDED PRIOR TO HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE TO REFRAIN FROM MAKING ANY STATEMENTS RELATIVE TO
IDENTITY OF JOSEPH KATZ. NO SUCH INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO
BLACK. IN EVENT HE REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS HE SHOULD BE TOLD TO
TELL THE COMMITTEE THE TRUTH.

HOOVER

65-59181

CC 65-57913 (KATZ)

RECORDED-11 65-59181-386

JPL:emb (9)

EX-131

NOTE: SEE COVER MEMO Belmont to Boardman, 5/7/56, caption, JPL:emb

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 7 - 1956

TELETYPE

INITIALED
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

F B I

Date: 5/3/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

On 5/2/56, THOMAS L. BLACK came to the Newark Office to advise that on the night before, a U. S. Marshal came to his residence and served him with a subpoena which instructs that he report to the Senate Office Building, 10 A.M., on 5/9/56. He advised that he is to appear before the same Senate Committee that recently heard testimony of DAVID GREENGLASS and HARRY GOLD. BLACK advised as follows: He is concerned about testifying in any open session where reporters are present. He wants to cooperate and is willing to answer any questions concerning his activities as he did to the FBI and the Grand Jury, but he would not like to have certain of the information he may furnish appear in newspapers. He gave as an example the fact that he furnished the Soviets fabricated reports. He indicated that he is worried about his future as far as work is concerned, as well as the possibility the Soviets might still try to get revenge.

BLACK requested to know if the FBI could speak to the Committee in his behalf resulting in the Committee hearing all his testimony in closed session. BLACK was told that the Bureau has no connection with Congressional Committees and that there was nothing the Bureau could do in this regard. He was advised that his information would be furnished to Bureau headquarters at Washington in the event any inquiry might be made by the Committee.

It was suggested to BLACK that when he arrives in Washington, he contact the Committee and inform the Committee

- 3 - Bureau (65-59181) REGISTERED MAIL
- 1 - Philadelphia (Info) (65-4332) REGISTERED MAIL
- 1 - NK 65-4074

FCZ:rac
(5)

RECORDED - 12

65-59181-387

36 MAY 4 1956

EX - 120

Sent _____ M

Per _____

Mr. Belmont

Approved: _____

F B I

PAGE TWO

Date: 5/356

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

RE: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

of his concern and desires. BLACK said he plans to go to Washington a day early and attempt to influence the Committee to agree to a closed session. He said, however, that he has no plans not to cooperate in every way and definitely will not be a Fifth Amendment witness. This is furnished for the Bureau's information.

F O S T E R

END

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc-Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Wallace
Liaison

BY COURIER SERVICE

65-57919

Date: May 8, 1956

To: Director (original & 1)
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. James Angleton

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOSEPH KATZ, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - R

Reference is made to our previous communications in this matter.

Thomas Lessing Black, who has admitted participation in Soviet espionage from 1944 to 1947, has been subpoenaed to testify before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on May 9, 1956. In the past, Black has identified Joseph Katz as one of his Soviet espionage superiors.

In view of your interest in this matter, it is felt you would want to know of Black's scheduled appearance before this committee.

A copy of this letter is being furnished to Assistant Attorney General William F. Tompkins.

65-59181-

NOT RECORDED

176 MAY 9 1956

- 1- AAG Tompkins (by r/s 0-6 this date)
- 2- 65-59181 (Black)

SEE COVER MEMO Belmont to Boardman, 5/7/56, captioned
THOMAS LESSING BLACK, ESP-R (JPL:emb)

JPL:emb (10)

2/10/62 X 4913
AP/539

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAY 15 1956

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

ORIGINAL FILED IN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

AIR TEL

Transmit the following ~~TELETYPE~~ message to:

TO: Director, FBI (65-59181)

5/11/56

FROM: SAC, Philadelphia (65-1332)

RE: THOMAS LESSING BLACK

ESPIONAGE - R

Re Newark airtel, 5/3/56, which set forth that subject advised he was subpoenaed to appear 10 a.m., 5/9/56 before same Senate Committee, Washington, D. C., that recently heard testimony of HARRY GOLD and DAVID GREENGLASS. BLACK expressed concern about testifying in open session, fearing Soviets might still try to seek revenge on him. BLACK inquired if FBI could intercede with Senate Committee to have his testimony heard in closed session. BLACK was told Bureau has no connection with committees and there was nothing Bureau could do in this regard.

Bureau letter 1/30/53 in BLACK case pointed out that on page 98 of BLACK's testimony before Federal Grand Jury at Philadelphia, BLACK identified [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b3
Bureau instructed that Philadelphia should point this out to BLACK in view of possibility BLACK might be called before a public hearing at some future date. Philadelphia complied with these instructions and so advised the Bureau by letter dated 4/21/53.

- 4 - Bureau (Registered Mail)
- 3 - 65-59181
- 1 - 65-57913 (JOSEPH KATZ)
- 2 - Newark (65-4074) (Registered Mail)
- 2 - New York (Info) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - 65-15338
- 1 - 65-14913 (JOSEPH KATZ)
- 1 - WFO (Info) (Registered Mail)
- 2 - Philadelphia
- 1 - 65-1332
- 1 - 65-1360 (JOSEPH KATZ)

CS:mt

(11)

Approved: [Signature]

Mr. Belmont

Sent

Per

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 65-59181-388

65-59181-388

MAY 15 1956

ESP. SEC.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

Director, FBI 5/4/56

RE: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

The last information in PH files in the JOSEPH KATZ case is a report of SA RICHARD E. BRENNAN, NY, dated 10/30/53, which reflects that a secret complaint and warrant is outstanding for arrest of KATZ for conspiracy to commit espionage. Current status of KATZ case is not known to this office.

In view of possible prosecution of KATZ and inasmuch as BLACK was previously cautioned that any public disclosure on his part identifying "JACK" as JOSEPH KATZ might impair future espionage investigations as set forth in PH letter 4/21/53, Bureau is requested to instruct Newark whether BLACK prior to his appearance before Senate Committee, 5/9/56, should again be reminded to refrain from making any statements relative to "JACK's" identity.

MC CABE

61878

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

DATE: May 7, 1956

FROM : A. H. Belmont

~~SECRET~~
CC - Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Wallace
Liaison

Tolson	
Boardman	
Nichols	
Belmont	
Mohr	
Parsons	
Rosen	
Tamm	
Nease	
Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Holloman	
Gandy	

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

* FEDERAL GRAND JURY

By airtel 5/4/56 Philadelphia pointed out subject has been subpoenaed to appear before Senate Internal Security Subcommittee 5/9/56. Phila. stated Bulet 1/30/53 in instant case reviewed testimony of Black before FGJ, Phila., and noted Black

in this letter instructed that the above info be pointed out to Black in view of the fact he might be called for public hearing at a future date. Phila. asked if Black should again be reminded by Newark to refrain from making any statements relative to Katz' identity.

[REDACTED]

It is not believed any instructions should be given to Black since to do so would place Bureau in the position of instructing a witness to withhold info from a Senate committee.

ACTION: 1) There is attached a teletype to Newark, with cc to Phila., instructing NK that no instructions should be given to Black to withhold info from the committee. Further, in the event Black asks for advice, he should be told to tell the truth.

sent 5-7-56

65-59181-389

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~DATE 11-13-83 BY 13~~

MAY 11 1956

2) There is attached a letter to CIA, with cc to Assistant AG Tompkins, captioned "Joseph Katz, was., ESP-R," advising of Black's scheduled appearance before the committee. CIA and Tompkins being advised in view of their negotiations with Israeli authorities to eventually have Katz returned to U.S.

JPL:emb (7)

Enclosures

cc: 65-47913 (Katz)

UNRECORDED

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including "sent 5-7-56" and various initials.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman *5/11/56*

DATE: 5-11-56

FROM : A. H. Belmont

TICKLERS: Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Branigan
Wallace

GIR 8

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Tolson	
Boardman	
Nichols	
Belmont	
Mohr	
Parsons	
Rosen	
Tamm	
Nease	
Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Holloman	
Gandy	

Attached "New York Daily News" article dated 5-10-56 captioned "Chemist Stole Data For Soviet For 17 Years" regarding which the Director commented: "Who is this?" deals with Thomas Lessing Black.

Black, a registered foreign agent whose registration statement was withdrawn by the Attorney General from public perusal in 1953, was born 7-5-07 at Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. He was interviewed by the Bureau on numerous occasions and was cooperative. He has admitted becoming involved with the Soviets in 1934. He has admitted contacting and sometimes furnishing information to Galk Ovakimian and subsequent Soviet espionage superiors in 1934-47. The information consisted of industrial secrets (including chemical formulas for penicillin and sorbitol) obtained from various companies by which Black was employed. In 1947 at his last meeting arrangements were made for future contacts. Black stated he received notice of an intended contact with the Russians on May 22, 1950. He stated he did not comply with his instructions for establishing this contact. By memorandums 4-30-51 and 5-20-53 the Criminal Division of the Department advised no prosecutive action against Black was contemplated. As result of testimony before the Federal Grand Jury, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, October 2, 3, and 9, 1952, Black was requested and did register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, as amended. Subsequently his registration statement was withdrawn from public examination. On 6-4-53 the Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, advised evidence was insufficient to sustain a conviction of Black under perjury, misprision of felony, and espionage statutes.

Black recently went into business with Percy Helie of the Helie Chemical Company, Worcester, Massachusetts. This company manufactures textile specialties. The actual manufacture of these specialties takes place at the plant of the Atlas Refinery Company, 142 Lookwood Street, Newark 5, New Jersey, and it is at this location that Black is presently employed. He resides at 708 High Street, Apartment B2, Newark.

On 5-1-56 Black was subpoenaed to appear 5-9-56 before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. He appeared on 5-9-56 and was heard in closed session. His testimony has been secured, is being Photostated and will be reviewed.

Enclosure
65-59181

HHW:RND

(6)

EX-103
RECORDED-66

65-59181-390

(HOB)

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For your information.

Whe

Whe

Whe

Whe

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Whe

Chemist Stole Data for Soviet For 17 Years

Washington, May 9 (CTPS).—An American chemist confessed to Senate investigators today that he had stolen technical secrets for a Soviet spy ring during a 17-year period.

From 1933 to 1950, the witness testified at a closed session of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee, he supplied Russian agents with a vast amount of material purloined from the files of American corporations for which he worked.

Acting Chairman Arthur Watkins (R-Utah) heeded the chemist's plea that his name and present place of employment should be concealed pending further investigation. A decision on producing the witness at an open hearing was postponed until next week.

The chemist was summoned for questioning as the result of testimony last April 26 of Harry Gold, convicted atomic spy now serving 30 years in prison. In his testimony Gold described the industrial spying of a chemist named Thomas L. Black, formerly of Jersey City.

However, committee members would not confirm or deny that Black was the chemist who today confessed spying.

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mason _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Nease _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
Wash. News _____
Wash. Star _____
N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
N. Y. Mirror _____
N. Y. Daily News _____
Daily Worker _____
The Worker _____
New Leader _____

Date MAY 10 1956

65-59481-391

RECORDED-56

MAY 17 1956

THIS IS
THOS L BLACK

Who is this?

"Plotted Violence"

~~Chief~~ Counsel Robert Morris said the testimony covered not only "industrial espionage" but a plot to do violence to an exiled Russian leader. In this conspiracy, a Russian police agent, acting under cover as a Soviet Red Cross representative, was involved, Morris said.

The chemist worked for several years under the supervision of Galk Badalovich Ovakimian, chief of the Soviet secret police in the United States from 1932 to 1941. Ovakimian was arrested by the FBI on May 5, 1941, but claimed immunity as a Soviet official. He was allowed to leave the United States, at the suggestion of the State Department, in July, 1941.

Given a Good Job

Gold testified last month that he was out of work in 1933 when he was given a good job by Black, a chemist then employed by the Holbrook Manufacturing Co. of Jersey City.

Gold said Black was a Communist who persuaded him to steal chemical secrets from his employer, which were relayed to Russian agents.

As a chemist for the Pennsylvania Sugar Co., Gold testified, he rifled his employer's files for blueprints and data which outlined processes for the manufacture of chemicals. He turned this material over to Black, who said the Russians needed such information.

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT Thomas Black

FILE NO. 65-59181

SECTION NO. 13

SERIALS 394

thru

422

NOTICE

THE BEST COPIES OBTAINABLE ARE INCLUDED IN THE REPRODUCTION OF THE FILE. PAGES INCLUDED THAT ARE BLURRED, LIGHT OR OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO READ ARE THE RESULT OF THE CONDITION AND OR COLOR OF THE ORIGINALS PROVIDED. THESE ARE THE BEST COPIES AVAILABLE.

File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas BlackDate: 1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
394	5.11.56	^{Airtel 291/9-18-78} NK LETTER to HQ	2	2	
395	5.17.56	PH LETTER HQ	2	2	
396	5.17.56	BELMONT MEMO BOARDMAN	2	2	
397	5.16.56	^{Airtel to 291/9-18-78} NK LETTER HQ	2	2	
398	5.31.56	PH LETTER HQ	4	4	
398	6.12.56	HQ LETTER NY	2	2	
399	5.19.56	BELMONT MEMO BOARDMAN	2	2	
400	5.21.56	NK TELETYPE HQ and PHG	1	1	
NR	5.9.56	HQ LETTER NK	1	1	
NIR	5.9.56	Encl. HQ LETTER NK	3	3	
401	5.23.56	NICHOLS MEMO TOLSON	1	1	
402	5.23.56	NICHOLS MEMO TOLSON	1	1	

File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas BlackDate: 1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
403	5-28-56	NICHOLS MEMO TOLSON	2	2	
404	5-29-56	BELMONT MEMO BOARDMAN	1	1	
404	5-31-56	HQ LETTER NK	1	1	
405	5-24-56	NK AIRTEL HQ	2	2	
405	5-31-56	HQ LETTER 3rd Party	1	1	
406	5-25-56	3rd Party LETTER HQ	2	2	
407	5-29-56	PRESS RELEASE WASHINGTON CITY NEWS	1	1	
408	6-4-56	NK AIRTEL HQ	1	1	
409	6-8-56	NK TELETYPE HQ	1	1	
409	6-14-56	HQ TELETYPE NK	1	1	
410	6-11-56	3rd Party LETTER HQ	1	1	
411	6-14-56	Belmont memo Boardman	2	2	

File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas Black

Date:

1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
412	6-14-56	NK LETTER HQ	2	2	
-A-	6-14-56	NEWSPAPER CLIPPING NEW YORK MIRROR	3	3	
413	6-15-56	HQ LETTER 3rd Party	1	1	
414	7-2-56	NY REPORT HQ copy of cover page	31	31	1 dup
415	7-6-56	PH REPORT HQ copy of cover page	6	6	1 dup
416	7-13-56	NK REPORT HQ copy of cover page	4	4	1 dup
NR	9-28-56	WALLACE MEMO BRANIGAN	1	1	
417	11-1-56	PH LETTER HQ	2	2	
418	12-4-56	PH LETTER HQ	2	2	
419	12-13-56	NK LETTER HQ	1	1	
420	12-27-56	NK LETTER HQ	1	1	
NR	2-4-57	SHORT MEMO NICHOLS	1	1	

File No: 65-59181

Re: Thomas Black

Date:

1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
421	2-13-57	NK LETTER HQ	1	1	
422	5-3-62	AULL MEMO BRANIGAN	1	1	
422	5-3-62	Encl. AULL MEMO BRANIGAN	4	4	
NR	2-27-58	WALLACE MEMO BRANIGAN	1	1	
NR	8-29-58	Captioned Joseph Greenburg NK AIRTEL HQ S	5	5	
NR	10-3-58	WALLACE MEMO BRANIGAN	1	1	
NR	11-15-74	CAPTIONED: JOSEPH KATZ NK AIRTEL HQ	3	3	
NR	11-12-74	CAPTIONED: JOSEPH KATZ NK AIRTEL HQ	3	3	
NR	2-6-75	CAPTIONED: JOSEPH KATZ NK AIRTEL HQ	2	2	
NR	4-28-75	CAPTIONED: JOSEPH KATZ Letter 291/9-18-77 AT AIRTEL HQ	1	1	
NR	6-5-75	CAPTIONED: JOSEPH KATZ NY AIRTEL HQ	2	2	
NR	7-10-75	CAPTIONED: JOSEPH KATZ NY AIRTEL HQ	2	2	

Re: Thomas Black

Date: _____

1/78
(month/year)

7/21/00

U.S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

COPIED FOR
FOIPA

FEB 18 1978 BY 29

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

65-19165

SECTION 13
FBI-ATLANTA

FBI

10:20 a.m.

Date: 5/11/56

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mason	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL
REGISTERED MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Re Newark airtel 5/3/56.

On 5/10/56, THOMAS BLACK appeared at Newark Office and he related that he had gone to Washington, D.C., on 5/8/56 and was interviewed by ROBERT MORRIS of the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee for a couple of hours, at which time, BLACK gave him a complete statement of his past activities. He said MORRIS advised him that the Committee would give consideration to not making his testimony public and would discuss the matter with the FBI.

BLACK advised that the next day, he appeared before the Committee for about an hour. The Committee members had copies of his statement and, although he had not ~~read~~ or signed it, he swore to it being the truth to the best of his recollection. One of the employees of the Committee told BLACK that they might wish to talk to him again at a later date, but made no arrangements at that time.

BLACK said he is still worried for fear the Committee will want him to testify in open session or might make his testimony of 5/9/56 public. He did not know that they planned to give anything to the press. Even though he was not identified, the "New York News", in its article, named BLACK as the possible unidentified industrial chemist, who had testified on 5/9/56. BLACK said he is worried about losing his job, even though his employer has known of his activities for a number of years. He said the newspaper article indicated he had worked for the Soviets until 1950, whereas he actually broke with the Communists in 1936 and completely broke away from Radical activities in 1940. His testimony showed only that he had been contacted by Soviets as late as 1950.

RECORDED - 9

65-59181-394

- 3 - Bureau (65-59181) (RM)
- 1 - Philadelphia (65-4332) (RM)
- 1 - Newark (65-4074)

FCZ/mam

Mr. Belmont

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

PAGE TWO

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To:

THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

BLACK requested to know whether, in the event his employer should question his truthfulness, the Bureau could tell his employer that he has told the truth. When informed that this was not possible, he wanted to know if he could bring his employer to the Newark Office for a discussion of his case. BLACK was told that this office would be unable to furnish any information to his employer. He said his employer is PERCY HELIE, who knew of his past activities in 1950 and was interviewed by the Bureau at that time. He said that HELIE was out of town on 5/10/56 but that he knew that BLACK was to testify on 5/9/56. BLACK said he felt that HELIE will believe that he has told the truth and he should realize that if BLACK was further involved, he would have been prosecuted the same as HARRY GOLD.

BLACK said he understood that the Bureau could not give out any information and appeared relieved after discussing the matter. He advised that he would inform this office of any subsequent developments.

FOSTER

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK,
ESPIONAGE - R
(OO - Newark)

DATE: 5/17/56

Re Philadelphia letter 3/27/56 and Newark letter 4/20/56.

Referenced Newark letter advised that subject mentioned the only items of his property still in the possession of the Philadelphia Office that he is interested in receiving at some future date are four booklets listed as Item 9 in referenced Philadelphia letter. These booklets are as follows:

"Program of the Communist Internationale"
copyrighted in 1929 by the Workers
Library Publishers (Philadelphia file
location 65-4332-1B-19 (12);

"The Communist Party - A Manual of Organization"
by J. PETERS, published July 1935 by
Workers Library Publishers (Philadelphia
file location 65-4332-1B-19 (13)

"Political Education - The Ultimate Aim" by
International Publishers (Philadelphia file
location 65-4332-1B-19 (14)

"Political Education - Chief Stages in History
of CP, SU" by International Publishers
(Philadelphia file location 65-4332-1B-19 (15)

- 2 - Bureau (65-59181)(REGISTERED MAIL)
- 2 - Newark (65-4074)(REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Philadelphia (65-4332)

RECORDED-22

CS:clp
(5)

65-59181-395

1127
55 MAY 29 1956

Director, FBI 5/17/56

RE: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Re Newark letter also mentioned BLACK was told the above booklets would not be destroyed but would be retained by the Philadelphia Office until such time as he requests their return. Newark instructed Philadelphia to advise if this arrangement was satisfactory and if so, proper notation should be made on the Philadelphia exhibits so that they would not be destroyed in the future.

This is to advise Newark that the above arrangement is satisfactory. Appropriate notations have been made on the pertinent Philadelphia exhibits (65-4332-1B-19 (12), (13), (14), and (15) so that they will be available when BLACK requests their return.

Inasmuch as work involving the disposition of BLACK's property has been finished and all other investigation has been completed in this office, this case is considered RUC.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

SECRET

DATE: May 17, 1956

FROM : A. H. Belmont

 Ticklers: Boardman
 Belmont
 Branigan
 Short
 Wallace

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK

 Testimony Before Senate Internal
 Security Subcommittee (Eastland Committee),
 May 8, 1956, Washington, D. C.,
 Executive Session, Volume 37,
 and May 9, 1956, Washington, D. C.,
 Executive Session, Volume 38

 Tolson _____
 Nichols _____
 Boardman _____
 Belmont _____
 Mason _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Nease _____
 Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

Stenographic transcript of captioned testimony was received from the Eastland Committee. Photostats made of May 8 and 9, 1956, testimony and originals returned to Committee. Eastland Committee hearing held for purposes of inquiring into scope of Soviet activities in the United States.

Testimony of Black on May 8, 1956, consisted of his furnishing the story of his involvement in Soviet espionage and was taken without any oath having been administered. His testimony on May 9, 1956, consisted of a brief resume under oath covering testimony given May 8, 1956. The information contained in Black's testimony is not new to the Bureau and no action is required. However, Black did state in his testimony of May 8, 1956, which was not repeated in his testimony of May 9, 1956, that he had as his superior at one time Katz. No further identifying information beyond Katz's name was furnished.

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

B1

65-59181

cc - 62-88217

BHW/rmp/eh

(7)

Category 2

MAY 22 1956

AP/109 2/10/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/81 BY SP-10

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

By letter also dated May 8, 1956, both CIA and AAG Tompkins were advised under caption "Joseph Katz, was., Espionage - R" that Joseph Katz's name had arisen in the testimony of Harry Gold before the Eastland Committee. Therefore, it is not necessary to notify CIA and AAG Tompkins again of Katz's name arising in testimony before Eastland Committee, in this instance in Black's testimony in executive session.

ACTION:

None. Since no new information is reported in the testimony of Black and Photostats of May 8 and 9, 1956, executive session testimony by Black before the Eastland Committee have been placed in Black's investigative file, and since CIA and AAG Tompkins have been advised of a prior instance of disclosure of Joseph Katz's name in testimony before the Eastland Committee, no further action by the Bureau is necessary.

26

Lucy

F B I

Date: 5/16/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL(Priority or Method of Mailing) *mt*

From SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was
ESPIONAGE - R
OO: Newark

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Gurnea	✓
Mr. Hendon	✓
Mr. Pennington	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

THOMAS BLACK appeared at the Newark Office May 15, 1956 and exhibited a letter he received from ROBERT MORRIS of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. The letter, dated May 10, 1956, stated that the committee members decided that BLACK should testify in public session for his own good to clear the record, for the good of the country, and to establish BLACK's "place in history".

MORRIS stated in the letter that he would talk to BLACK's employer before he testified. MORRIS also told BLACK that the committee had discussed the matter with the FBI and the FBI told them that a decision to have BLACK testify publicly would in no way effect his future usefulness.

BLACK said he talked to MORRIS on the telephone and MORRIS wants him to appear Thursday morning, May 17, 1956. MORRIS talked to PERCY HELIE, BLACK's employer and HELIE had no objection to BLACK's testifying. However, according to BLACK, officials of the Atlas Refinery Inc., Newark, N. J. are concerned about the matter although they have said nothing to him.

He explained that he works for HELIE who sells certain chemicals which are made at the Atlas Refinery and he, BLACK, supervises the production of these chemicals. Neither he nor HELIE are employed or paid by Atlas Refinery.

- 3 - Bureau (65-59181) Registered Mail
1 - Philadelphia (65-4332) (Info) Registered Mail
1 - Newark (65-4074)

RCZ/mae
(5)

RECORDED-125

MAY 17 1956

EX-100

65-59181-397

MAY 20 1956

F B I

Date: 5/16/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was
ESPIONAGE - R

PAGE TWO

BLACK is concerned that the committee will not bring out the complete story of his operation in order to clarify his roll as a Soviet Agent.

BLACK is planning to telephone MORRIS in an attempt to get more time to discuss the details of his case before testifying and also to request MORRIS to contact the President of the Atlas Refinery Company to explain the matter to him. BLACK was given no advise in this matter.

BLACK also mentioned the possibility of the Soviets contacting him after he testified. He was told that he should immediately notify this office if he is ever so contacted.

Furnished for information.

END.....FOSTER

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : *WMM* SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was, Tasso
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 5/31/56

On 5/18/56, Mr. MORRIS FRIEDMAN, 1818 North 16th Street, Reading, voluntarily appeared at the Reading Resident Agency, stating that he wished to furnish information on the subject. He stated that he saw an article in the local press indicating that the subject had testified before some congressional committee regarding his espionage activities in behalf of the Russians. FRIEDMAN stated that he, himself, is presently employed by the J. C. Ehrlich Company of Reading. He came to know the subject when they were students at the Pennsylvania State College. FRIEDMAN stated that he attended college from 1926 to 1930, graduating in the latter year. The subject was unable to graduate because of a lack of money.

FRIEDMAN recalled that the subject had a roommate, with whom he was very close. This roommate was named FERDINAND HELLER. FRIEDMAN stated that he last saw HELLER around 1931 at which time HELLER resided at 199 West Chew Street, Philadelphia, Pa. FRIEDMAN recalled that they called the subject Tasso when they attended college, but he had no idea where the nickname originated. In addition, FRIEDMAN stated that he cannot recall that the subject or HELLER were interested in Communism, but he did recall that they passed out tracts put out by the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism.

Around 1930 or 1931, FRIEDMAN was experiencing difficulty in obtaining employment as a teacher. He recalled that he went on a hitch-hiking trip with HELLER to see the former's uncle in Massachusetts. They stopped off to see the subject in Newark. He recalled that the subject lived in an apartment house development, possibly owned by the

REGISTERED MAIL

- 2 - BUREAU (65-59181)
- 2 - NEWARK (65-4074)
- 2 - NEW YORK (65-15338)
- 2 - PHILADELPHIA (1 - 65-4332)
(1 - 65-4348)

WJP:NPO
(8)

RECORDED-31

INDEXED-31

65-59181-398

JUN 1 1956

DIRECTOR, FBI

5/31/56

THOMAS L. BLACK, wa., Tasso
ESPIONAGE - R

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. There was a fourth individual present, but he could not remember who it was. The subject spent most of his time with KELLER and FRIEDMAN, but he could not recall anything of significance that was discussed.

FRIEDMAN stated that toward the end of World War II, he was employed as a Process Engineer by the Sperry Gyroscope Company at Lake Success, N.Y. He was working on the development of the gyroscope, which was classified work. Although he had nothing to do with it, he was aware that the firm was also doing some classified work for the Navy, which was some sort of an aiming device to be used by planes. He knew that the instrument involved the use of mirrors and that it was used in computing range and speed of a plane. Mr. FRIEDMAN stated that was all he knew about the project, and that he never had access to it.

The subject was still residing in Newark at that time. FRIEDMAN recalled that he visited the subject about three or four times. He recalled that the subject asked him a general question such as what he was doing at the Sperry Gyroscope Company. FRIEDMAN stated that he never told the subject what type of work he was doing because of its confidential nature. He recalled that the subject also asked some general questions about the computing device mentioned above. FRIEDMAN stated he pointed this out to indicate that the subject was aware of the project. In addition, FRIEDMAN stated that he cannot recall exactly what the subject's questions were, although he recalled that they were general in nature. FRIEDMAN stated that at any rate, he could not have talked about the project if he had wanted to because he had no information concerning it except as set out above. Mr. FRIEDMAN stated that the subject never attempted to recruit him for espionage purposes.

He did recall that the subject had invented some type of medical cream which could be used as a base for medicines and which would not cause a scar or wound to adhere to a bandage. The subject sold his rights to this cream to some firm in New York City for \$3,000. On 5/21/56, Mr. FRIEDMAN called and advised that the firm in question was the Fine Organics Company, 211 East 19th Street, New York City.

DIRECTOR, FBI

5/31/56

THOMAS L. BLACK, wa., Tasso
ESPIONAGE - R

Mr. FRIEDMAN stated that in thinking back over his contacts with the subject, he recalled that the subject was always apprehensive. He recalled that when he came to visit, the subject always looked down the hall in back of him as if he were looking to see if anyone else were there. He recalled that he and the subject very often talked over old times on a park bench and that when they returned to the subject's apartment, the subject always inspected every room as if to determine if anyone had been in the apartment. In addition, he stated that the only remark that he recalled about Russia was when the subject asked him what he planned to do after the war. When FRIEDMAN replied that he did not know, the subject told him that he could get a good job in Russia.

The only apparent identifiable reference to MORRIS FRIEDMAN in the Philadelphia files is contained on page 175 in the report of SA WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR., Philadelphia, dated 7/26/50, in captioned matter, copies of which were furnished to Newark. BLACK apparently was questioned regarding a MORRIS FRIEDMAN. BLACK related this individual lived at 537 North 11th Street, Reading, and was his roommate at Pennsylvania State College for two semesters. On one occasion after BLACK started working for Berg Laboratories in Philadelphia, FRIEDMAN saw him socially in Philadelphia. No other information is mentioned concerning FRIEDMAN.

Since BLACK has always maintained he engaged only in industrial espionage, it might be well to determine why he was asking FRIEDMAN about confidential Navy work at Sperry Gyroscope Company toward the end of World War II, as mentioned by FRIEDMAN.

Prior to any re-interview with BLACK, New York is requested to attempt to identify the project involving the Navy confidential work on computing devices that were handled during World War II by the Sperry Gyroscope Company, Lake Success, N.Y., and as described in more detail by FRIEDMAN in this letter.

If New York is successful in obtaining more detailed information concerning the above Navy classified contract, Newark is requested to re-interview BLACK regarding his association with FRIEDMAN. It should then be determined how BLACK knew about the confidential Navy project at Sperry Gyroscope and why he was questioning FRIEDMAN

DIRECTOR, FBI

5/31/56

THOMAS L. BLACK, wa., Tasso
ESPIONAGE - R

about the project. At the conclusion of the interview, he could be asked whether this interest in the Sperry Gyroscope Company and the confidential work at Sperry was for the benefit of the Russians.

SAC, New York (65-15338) (orig & 1)

June 12, 1956

RECORDED - 86 Director, FBI (65-59181)-398

THOMAS L. BLACK, was
ESPIONAGE - R

Re Philadelphia let dated 5-31-56 in above-captioned matter.

New York will immediately handle the lead set out in referenced letter to identify the project involving confidential work for the Navy on computing devices which was handled during World War II by the Sperry Gyroscope Company, Lake Success, New York, as described in more detail by Morris Friedman in referenced letter.

The Newark Office, on receipt of the results of New York investigation requested above, is authorized to re-interview Thomas L. Black regarding his association with Morris Friedman. It should be determined how Black learned of the confidential Navy project at the Sperry Gyroscope Company and why he questioned Friedman about that project. Black should also be asked whether his interest in the Sperry Gyroscope Company and its confidential work was to obtain information for the benefit of the Russians.

As stated above, New York will handle requested inquiry immediately so that Newark can interview Black and report the results of said interview promptly.

The above matter must receive continuous supervision and attention until resolved as Black has always maintained that he engaged only in industrial espionage for the Russians.

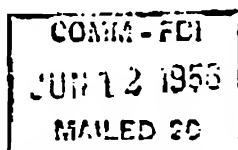
cc - 2 - Newark (65-4074)

JHE:sm

(6)

See note on page two.

Tolson _____
 Nichols _____
 Boardman _____
 Belmont _____
 Mason _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Tracy _____
 Harbo _____
 Tele. Room _____



398

Letter to New York:

NOTE:

Black was born 7-5-07 in Pennsylvania and is a registered foreign agent whose registration statement was withdrawn from public perusal in 1953 by the Attorney General. He has claimed that he was engaged only in industrial espionage for the Soviets. On 6-4-53 the Assistant U. S. Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, advised that evidence developed was insufficient to sustain a conviction of Black under perjury, suspicion of misprision of felony, and espionage status. He appeared before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee 5/8/9/17-56 in Washington, D. C. On 5-18-56 Morris Friedman voluntarily appeared at our Reading, Pennsylvania, resident agency and volunteered information concerning his relationship with Thomas L. Black. As a result, a question has arisen as to whether Black, due to questions asked Friedman concerning Friedman's employer, Sperry Gyroscope Company, might not have been engaged in espionage as distinguished from industrial espionage as he has always contended. Due to this fact the New York and Newark Offices have been requested to resolve the questions raised by Friedman's information immediately.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

DATE: 5-19-56

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Tolson	_____
Nichols	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mason	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Nease	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Pursuant to Mr. Nichols' request, information, concerning subject's degree of cooperation with Bureau; as to Departmental opinions concerning prosecution of subject; as to whether subject testified in Abraham Brothman Case, and as to subject's present employment situation as known to Bureau, is set out.

Subject was first interviewed 5-31-50 due to association with Harry Gold and stated he had no reason to doubt Gold's loyalty. Gold, who confessed on 5-22-50 to having been Klaus Fuchs' American contact, on 6-2, 4, 5-50, gave statements advising Black had recruited him into Soviet espionage and that he had told Black of his connection with Fuchs. Black was reinterviewed 6-15-50 and admitted meeting Gold after Fuchs' arrest and being told Gold was Fuchs' American contact. He claimed he was scared of Soviets and regretted his inaction, i.e., not telling FBI. He stated he wished to cooperate and thereafter was interviewed on numerous occasions and furnished information unknown to Bureau concerning his activities. He admitted he was first involved with Soviets in 1934; that he contacted and sometimes furnished information to Gaik Ovakimian and subsequent espionage superiors in 1934-47. The information consisted of industrial secrets (including chemical formulas for penicillin and sorbitol) obtained from various companies by which employed. He has apparently cooperated in the identification of his Soviet espionage superiors. The Bureau's knowledge of Black's activities is limited in most part to his admissions.

By memoranda 4-30-51 and 5-20-53 the Criminal Division of the Department advised no prosecutive action against Black was contemplated. As a result of testimony before the Federal Grand Jury, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 10-2, 3, 9-52, Black was requested and did register under Foreign Agents Registration Act, as amended. Subsequently the Department on 5-20-53 advised his registration statement was withdrawn from public examination due to fact he stated he would report any future contacts with Soviet agents to Bureau. On 6-4-53 the Assistant USA, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, advised evidence insufficient to sustain a conviction under perjury, misprision of felony and espionage statutes.

65-59181

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Bronigan
Mr. Wallace

HH:et

(6)

RECORDED

65-59181-399

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

Black was issued a subpoena to testify as a witness in the Abraham Brothman Case but was not called to testify. (65-59181-288) Black's first public appearance was to testify before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, reportedly 5-17-56.

Information as to Black's present employment situation was furnished by our Newark Office 5-12-56 by airtel. Black appeared at Newark Office 5-15-56 and advised he works for Percy Helie who sells certain chemicals produced at Atlas Refinery, the production of which is supervised by Black. Neither Black nor Helie are employed or paid by Atlas Refinery. Black exhibited letter dated 5-10-56 from Robert Morris stating the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee had decided he should testify publicly. Morris stated he would talk to Black's employer prior thereto and also stated FBI had told Committee that the FBI had stated Black's public testimony would in no way affect his future usefulness. According to Black, Morris talked to Percy Helie who did not object to Black's testifying. Black advised he was going to request Morris to contact the president of Atlas Refinery Company to explain the matter to him as Black stated officials of the latter company were concerned although they had said nothing to him. Black was given no advice in this matter by the Newark Office.

ACTION:

For information.

mm
AC
WJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 21 1956

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mason _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

FBI NEWARK

5-21-56 12-35 AM

ET

DIRECTOR FBI AND SAC PHILADELPHIA

DEFERRED

FOR INFO OF BUREAU AND PHILADELPHIA

THOMAS LESSING BLACK VISITED NEWARK OFFICE ON FIVE TWENTY FIFTYSIX TO ADVISE THAT ROBERT MORRIS, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE, HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BLACK TO CONTACT A REPRESENTATIVE OF A NEW YORK CITY NEWSPAPER ON MAY TWENTYONE REGARDING PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN ARTICLE OR A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON HIS CAREER. BLACK STATED THAT IF DESIRABLE HE WOULD CLEAR ANY FORTHCOMING ARTICLES WITH THIS BUREAU. BLACK ALSO STATED THAT HE URGED HARRY GOLD SEVERAL TIMES TO GET OUT OF ESPIONAGE FOR THE SAKE OF HIS FAMILY. BLACK ASKED AGENTS TO CONFIRM THIS WITH GOLD AFTER GOLD-S ARREST. BLACK IS UNAWARE OF RESULTS TO CONFIRM ABOVE AND NOW DESIRES SAME FOR ARTICLE. REVIEW OF INFO IN NEWARK FILES AND TELEPHONE CALL TO PHILADELPHIA OFFICE REFLECTS BUREAU HAS NO DESIRE TO CENSOR BLACK-S ARTICLES. BLACK WILL RECONTACT NEWARK OFFICE IN A. M. THIS DATE AND WILL BE ADVISED NO CLEARANCE NECESSARY AND THAT RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS WITH GOLD CANNOT BE MADE KNOWN TO HIM.

END

FOSTER

COPIES DESTROYED

RECORDED - 58

R 47 NOV 21 1960

ACK PLS

WA

OK FBI WA 0711 LO

1240 PM

OK FBI PH FLS

65-59181-400

Walters
17 MS

Tickler - Mr. Gregg

~~SECRET~~

SAC, [redacted]

(Orig. & 2)

Director, FBI (100-342624)

May 9, 1956

[redacted] b1

[redacted] b1

Enclosure 1

cc-2-Chicago (100-15106) (Enclosure 1)
cc-2-Los Angeles (100-73457) (Enclosure 1)
cc-2-New York (100-80004) (Enclosure 1)
cc-2-Portland (100-8600) (Enclosure 1)
cc-2-San Francisco (100-75135) (Enclosure 1)
cc-2-Seattle (100-18220) (Enclosure 1)
cc-2-Washington Field (100-17341) (Enclosure 1)
cc-1-Header file (65-1076) (Thomas Lessing Black) (Enclosure 1)

cc-1-Bufile 65-59181 (Thomas Lessing Black)

EMG:ssp
(21)

Classified by 4043
Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3
Date of Review 2/10/78
RP/29

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/01 BY 60322
CER/ML

1 ENCLOSURE

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

~~SECRET~~
2-13-58
SEC

65-59181-✓
NOT RECORDED
145 MAY 16 1956

YELLOW
DUPLICATE
MAY 9 - 1956
MAILED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

BI

Revised April 27, 1956
Washington, D. C. (B)

Name BLACK, THOMAS LESSING
Aliases Dr. Thomas L. Black, Tasso Lessing Black,
Tom Black, Lessie Black, Tom Wright, Tom
Jones, Harold L. Jones, George Williams,
Bob, "Doc"
Nationality American
Description (Photo available)

Sex Male
Race White
Age 48 (1956)
Born 7-5-07, Bloomsburg, Pa.
Height 5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Weight 200 lbs.
Build Heavy
Eyes Blue; wears glasses
Hair Light brown, wavy
Complexion Light, ruddy
Scars and marks Burn scars on entire left arm and shoulder,
front of neck and left ear.
Peculiarities High, square forehead; flat feet;
incessant smoker; uses long, black
cigarette holder

Marital Status Single

Occupation Chemist

Employment

American Cyanamid Co., Linden, N.J. (1929-30)

Holbrook Manufacturing Co., Jersey City, N.J. (1930-33)

National Oil Products Co., Harrison, N.J. (1933-44)

Consultant, Fine Organics, Inc., New York City (1944-45)

Consultant, Spruce Chemical Co., Paterson, N.J. (1946)

Consultant, Chas. W. Berg Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa.
(1945-55)

Atlas Refinery, Inc., Newark, N.J. (1955-

~~NOT RECORDED~~
~~15~~

Classified by 4912
Category 2,3
Exempt from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

65-59181-

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Organizations

~~SECRET~~

Member, CP, USA under name of Harold L. Jones (1932-33)

Member, Socialist Party (1937)

Member, Socialist Workers Party under name of Tom Jones
(1938-41)

Residence

265 East St., Bloomsburg, Pa. (1907-29)

577 Madison Ave., Elizabeth, N.J. (1928-)

112 Westfield Ave., Elizabeth, N. J.

116 Anna St. Elizabeth N.J.

654 Bergen Ave., Jersey City, N.J.

57 Sip Ave., Jersey City, N.J.

Mayflower Apts., 65 Tonnell Ave., Jersey City, N.J.
(-1933)

55 Oxford St., Newark, N.J. (1933-37)

17 Oxford St., Newark, N.J. (1937-49)

Majestic Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa. (part time)

1749 N. Mascher St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1945-46)

43 W. Gravers Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. (1946)

2124 Spruce St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1947-48)

1908 Dallas St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1948-50)

1929 N. 6th St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1950-1954)

590 West Berks St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1954-1955)

R.D. 1, Englishtown, N.J., c/o Victor Decker, Jr. (1955-1956)

708 High St., Newark, N.J. (1956-)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

Education

Pennsylvania State College (1925-29-not graduated).

Espionage Activity

In 1934, Black contacted Galk B. Ovakimian (Soviet espionage agent) at Amtorg Trading Corp., New York City to obtain employment in USSR at which time he was recruited into Soviet intelligence. Altho claiming to have been an unwilling and uncooperative agent, Black has admitted furnishing unclassified industrial information (including data concerning penicillin and sorbitol) to Ovakimian and to subsequent Soviet superiors, Paul Petersen, "Carl," "George" (Semen Markovitch Semenov), Dr. Robert Swartz (Gregori L. Rabinovitch), "John" (Nikolai N. Erchov) and "Jack" (Joseph Katz) during 1934-47. In 1935, he was instrumental in recruiting Harry Gold into Soviet intelligence, introducing him to his then Soviet superior, Paul Petersen.

According to Black, he joined the Socialist Workers Party (Trotskyite) at Petersen's suggestion to serve in an intelligence capacity. He also stated that in 1938 Gregori Rabinovitch urged him to go to Mexico to work his way into the home of Leon Trotsky (assassinated in 1940), which assignment he had refused.

In 1943-44, Black served as courier between Joseph Katz and William W. Stapler (deceased), delivering message and funds to latter, an employee of Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Delaware, who had allegedly sold technical information to the Soviets.

Black has admitted having received funds, gifts and laboratory equipment from his various Soviet superiors.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson *V. J. [unclear]*

FROM : L. B. Nichols *[initials]*

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK
BUREAU FILE # 65-59181

DATE: 5-23-56

Tolson	_____
Nichols	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mason	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Nease	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Black has admitted engaging in industrial espionage on behalf of the Soviet in testimony before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. He has been interviewed many times by Bureau Agents and has been most cooperative. Press reports stated he had been dismissed Friday, May 18, from the Atlas Refining Company in Newark where he worked as a chemist.

For record purposes Tom Buchanan, Washington representative of the Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger (telephone METropolitan 8-0823) at 12:45 p.m. 5-21-56 telephoned Wick and made reference to Black's dismissal.

Buchanan said he understood the Director had in the past made references in articles and speeches to the public service rendered by former communists who "stand up to be counted." He asked whether we could supply him with these references or speeches.

ACTION TAKEN:

Buchanan came to the Bureau at 1:00 p.m. 5-21-56 at which time he was given copies of the Director's This Week Magazine article "Breaking the Communist Spell" (issue of 11-1-53) in which the Director states "Their (informants) means of livelihood must be protected...."; the June 1, 1955, Law Enforcement Bulletin; the article by the Director "Moral Duty of a Citizen" (Virginia Law Weekly, 1-8-54) and the Director's IACP address at Philadelphia, 10-3-55.

Buchanan said he understood now, however, Black did not lose his job after all. He said, however, he intended to write a story incorporating some of the Director's remarks.

cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Belmont

REW:nl
(4)

INDEXED - 4

65-59181-401

59 JUN 5 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE 5-22-56

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Tolson	✓
Nichols	✓
Boardman	✓
Belmont	✓
Mohr	✓
Parsons	✓
Rosen	✓
Tamm	✓
Nease	✓
Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holmes	✓
Gandy	✓

Bob Morris called me Friday afternoon and was quite excited over the fact that the Atlas Refinery had fired Black. Morris stated that the Atlas Refinery had taken the position that Black's information was in the hands of the FBI and there is no point in airing the matter to the world. Bob stated that apparently the Newark Office had not been of any assistance. I told him that obviously we could not inject ourselves into an employee-employer relationship as to whether a person should or should not testify before a congressional committee.

I think that Morris was a little miffed at that time because when I talked to him on Saturday he was apologetic and stated that the whole trouble stemmed from Schroeder who is the head of the Atlas Refinery, that he had asked Schroeder to not take any action on Black until the first of the week as the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee would no doubt want to take this matter up with Schroeder direct. Schroeder agreed to take no action and he told Morris that Black's testimony served no purpose and nothing good could come of airing this matter to the world.

On Saturday, 5-19-56, the New Star Ledger stated that Black had been fired whereupon Bob Morris called Schroeder and Schroeder stated he had agreed to wait until Monday but his mind was made up. Schroeder again injected the FBI into the matter and stated this is an FBI matter, the FBI had the information and nothing good comes from airing things like this, and that he simply was not going to have Black around. Morris stated the Committee is considering subpoenaing Schroeder and making an issue out of this with him.

cc - Mr. Boardman

cc - Mr. Belmont

X-125

RECORDED - 58

23 JUN 4 1956

LEN:al

(4)

63 JUN - 1956

I can't follow Morris reasoning. He certainly didn't evaluate the situation in any way & there was nothing we could or should have done.

59181-402
59181

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson *V. J. D.*

DATE: May 28, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols *LBN*SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Tolson	_____
Nichols	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mason	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Nease	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Bob Morris was very much upset last week over the report that Black had been fired as a result of giving testimony. On my return from Phoenix, Morris told me on Thursday evening that he had discussed the matter with the officials of the Atlas Refinery, Inc., and they had now agreed to give Black back his job if some Government agency could give a clearance. Morris stated he was stymied as to know what to tell them.

I told him that I was too because I did not know that the Atlas Refinery had any contracts. Morris then inquired what our position would be if the Atlas Refinery made inquiry of us. I told him that our position would be that we do not give clearance nor do we make charges. He then inquired whether we would interpose any objection if we had the problem. I told him that we would not interpose any objection because there was no basis upon which an objection could be made. *Tolson*

On the late afternoon of May 25, Thomas V. Jardine, attorney for the Atlas Refinery, Inc., called me and advised that he had been in touch with Bob Morris of the Internal Security Subcommittee; that the Atlas Refinery, Inc., was perfectly willing to take Black back; that they had made inquiry of the Army and the Army had stated that since the Atlas Refinery did not have Army contracts and that there was no procedure whereby the Army could process Black. He stated the reason that they want to be cautious is the fact that they are hoping to have a contract in the near future for the development of lubricants for jet motors, and that Black, being a chemist, would be closely associated with the research. He then asked if we would interpose any objection to Black.

I told Jardine that in this instance we would have no official right to interpose an objection; that we, of course, have known that Black has been with the Atlas Refinery and the Atlas Refinery knows that we have made no objection, nor would we make an objection. He then inquired whether we were

LBN:hpf

(4)

Enclosures *sent 6-1-56*

cc - Mr. Boardman

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED

JUN 5 1956

65-59181-403

Page

Memorandum to Mr. Tolson

still investigating Black and I told him that we were not; that there was no basis for investigation of Black since he had made his disclosures to us some years ago.

Jardine then inquired if we would write a letter to the effect that we would have no objection to Black on the grounds of loyalty. I told him that we would not write such a letter as this would not be within our realm. He stated he thoroughly understood this; that he did not want to belabor the point, but off the record, he had to find some way to try to justify the Atlas Refinery taking Black back. I told him that it is my understanding that the Internal Security Subcommittee had expressed a very strong position on Black and the fact that he had made disclosures and it seemed that this would be all that he would need. He stated that he would like to write us a letter and I told him he was at liberty to do this if he desired.

Such a letter was received on Saturday morning, May 26, wherein Jardine refers to his conversation with me. He points out that the FBI has no evidence of any activity subsequent to Black's making his disclosures to the Bureau and that the Bureau had interposed no objection to Black and would interpose no objection. This is certainly the substance of the conversation although I made the qualified statement that even if we had the right to object, we would not object in the absence of additional evidence.

An acknowledgment has been prepared for Jardine and is attached hereto.

✓ Q

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman *lvb*

DATE: May 29, 1956

FROM : A. H. Belmont

Tickers: Boardman
Belmont
Nichols
J. S. Short
Jensen

Tolson ☒
Nichols ☒
Boardman ☒
Belmont ☒
Mason ☒
Mohr ☒
Parsons ☒
Rosen ☒
Tamm ☒
Nease ☒
Winterrowd ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holloman ☒
Gandy ☒

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK
Testimony Before Senate Internal
Security Subcommittee (Eastland
Committee) May 17, 1956, Washington,
D. C., Volume 40 (Open Session)

Stenographic transcript of captioned testimony received from Eastland Committee. Photostats made and original returned to Committee. Eastland Committee hearing held for purpose of inquiring into scope of Soviet activities in the U.S.

Testimony of Black on 5-17-56 consisted of Black's giving general information about his CP activities, Trotskyite activities, and Soviet espionage activities. Black furnished no new information requiring action with one exception: Black, in testifying, said he had discussed the murder of Carlo Tresca with Joseph Katz. Tresca, for many years until his assassination in January, 1943, was a prominent figure in the New York Italian political picture and by virtue of his activities at varying periods as an agitator, neo-anarchist, and finally as a bitter, caustic antifascist and anticommunist leftist was considered the number one stormy petrel on the Italian political scene in the U.S. The Bureau conducted no active investigation concerning Tresca's murder. There was extensive publicity regarding Tresca's murder in 1943 wherein it was claimed the murder was a political murder consummated by Stalinist elements. Public identification of Katz as Soviet Agent by Black called to attention of Dept. and CIA by let 5/8/56.

Black, in numerous interviews by Bureau in past, has not indicated he discussed Tresca's murder with Katz, his espionage superior.

RECOMMENDATION: There is attached a letter to Newark instructing that Black be interviewed regarding his statement that he discussed Tresca and his murder with Joseph Katz. Newark is also being furnished a Photostat of Black's testimony and a summary of information on Tresca to assist in this interview.

Enclosure *sent S-SI-RECORDED-44*
65-59181

cc - 62-80217 (Eastland Committee)

REJ/en
(7)

JUN 5 1956

ticklers

Boardman
Belmont
Nichols
JG Snort
Jensen

(original and one)

RECORDED
J.C. Newark (65-4074)

65-59181-404

Director, FBI (65-59181)

EX-100

THOMAS L. BLACK, was
ESPIONAGE - R

The subject appeared before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on May 17, 1956, and testified relative to his espionage activities. During his appearance Black said he had had a conversation with Joseph Katz about Carlo Tresca. He stated that Tresca had been murdered in New York City in 1943 and that Katz told him Tresca was an enemy of the working class. Katz also told Black that Tresca had been tried in Moscow, Russia, in absentia and had received a fair trial.

There is no information available in Black's file that indicates he has previously furnished any information regarding this discussion of Tresca with Katz. Black should be recontacted by your Office and asked to furnish any and all details he has regarding his discussion of Tresca with Katz. He should be questioned closely regarding this matter as he has not previously furnished this information to the Bureau.

For your assistance in this matter, you are being furnished a Photostat of Black's testimony before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on May 17, 1956, and a summary of information on Carlo Tresca which was prepared in January, 1946.

Enclosures (2)

Cover memo Belmont to
Boardman prepared 5-29-56
by RGJ/eh.

RGJ/eh
(9) eh

MAILED 12
MAY 31 1956

COMM. FB

50 JUN 14 1956

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-86

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

5/24/56

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)
THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Re Newark Air-Tel 5/3/56.

According to newspaper accounts BLACK appeared before Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on 5/17/56 at Washington and testified in public hearing concerning his espionage activities in 1944. Following this appearance press reports indicate that BLACK was barred from returning to his position in Newark as a result of action by ARTHUR F. SCHROEDER, JR., President of Atlas Refinery, Incorporated, 142 Lockwood Street, Newark. BLACK is reportedly employed by P. H. Helie Company, Worcester, Massachusetts, and had been working at the Atlas plant which is under contract to manufacture chemicals for Helie.

After SCHROEDER's confirmation to newspapers of his action to bar BLACK, ROBERT MORRIS, Counsel for the Senate Subcommittee, reportedly made statements to the press protesting the action calling it an "outrage" and "a great Soviet victory". MORRIS is also quoted as stating that this action would seal the lips of many ex-Communists who might otherwise be willing to reveal information and that the Subcommittee would undoubtedly take action in an effort to protect BLACK. Later reports indicate that SCHROEDER stated he would be willing for BLACK to return provided he was granted proper security clearance by the appropriate Government agency.

On 5/23/56, SCHROEDER and RAYMOND P. SEAMAN, Secretary and Treasurer of Atlas, called at this office accompanied by their attorney THOMAS V. JARDINE of the Newark law firm of Carey, Schenk and Jardine. JARDINE outlined in some detail his discussion with MORRIS and said that pursuant to MORRIS' advice had contacted local representatives of

3 - Bureau (65-59181) (RM)
1 - Newark (65-4074)

REC:JTO
Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

Per _____

65-59181-405

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

Air-Tel to Bureau
NK 65-4074

various branches of the military, each of whom declined to institute any action and provide security clearance for BLACK on the basis that no contractual relationship of any kind now exists between Atlas and any branch of the military. JARDINE also said that MORRIS told him that since the FBI had responsibility for investigation of "industrial espionage", he should attempt to obtain information from this office as to BLACK's suitability for employment. The Bureau's responsibilities in this regard, as well as with respect to the matter of security clearance were thoroughly explained to JARDINE and the confidential nature of information in the Bureau's files was pointed out to him. JARDINE stated that MORRIS had earlier indicated he would discuss this matter with Bureau officials in Washington in an effort to obtain information which might serve as a basis for a determination by SCHROEDER as to whether he should allow BLACK to return.

JARDINE said he had attempted to contact MORRIS by telephone on 5/23/56 but learned that he was somewhere in the midwest. JARDINE said he was writing to MORRIS informing him of the results of his efforts to obtain clearance for BLACK or to get information concerning him, and that in view of his unsuccessful efforts, he would continue to look to the Subcommittee to provide such clearance or information.

This is being furnished to the Bureau for information in the event of a possible contact by MORRIS.

FOSTER

65-59181-405

RECORDED - 22

INDEXED - 22

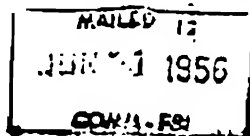
May 31, 1956

Mr. Thomas V. Jardine
Carey, Schenk and Jardine
Paymond Commerce Building
Newark 2, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Jardine:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 25, with reference to your telephone conversation with Mr. L. E. Nichols of my staff on the afternoon of May 25. In addition, Mr. Nichols has informed me of your call.

As it was pointed out to you, it is not within the purview of the FBI to make evaluations, give clearances or make charges, and since Mr. Black's employment with the Atlas Refinery, Incorporated, does not come within the purview of this Bureau's authority or jurisdiction, there is no way whereby this Bureau could give clearance or sanction to Mr. Black. Mr. Black has not been the subject of an investigation since he has made his full disclosures some years ago, and he is not now the subject of an investigation.



Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

LBN:hpf;mcg

Cover memo from Nichols to Tolson dated 5-28-56

(5)

CC-Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

RECEIVED
JUN 21 1956

RECEIVED
JUN 21 5 51 PM '56

CAREY, SCHENK & JARDINE

RAYMOND COMMERCE BUILDING

NEWARK 2, N. J.

MITCHELL 2-4882

ROBERT CAREY, JR.
HENRY F. SCHENK
THOMAS V. JARDINE

FLEMINGTON OFFICE
1 MAIN STREET
FLEMINGTON 688

May 25, 1956

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. L. B. Nichols

Dear Sir:

Re: Atlas Refinery, Inc. - Thomas L. Black

This will confirm my telephone conversation this afternoon with Mr. L. B. Nichols regarding the above matter.

As counsel for Atlas Refinery, Inc., I advised Mr. Nichols of the present problem confronting the Company. The Atlas Refinery refused to readmit to its plant Thomas L. Black, an employee on assignment to Atlas's chemical laboratory from the Percy F. Heile Company of Worcester, Massachusetts after Mr. Black had testified for the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. By that testimony the Atlas Refinery, Inc. learned that Mr. Black had been engaged in espionage for the Soviets for about seventeen years up to 1950.

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee by its counsel, Mr. Robert Morris requested that the Company cooperate with the Subcommittee and readmit Mr. Black to the plant. It was pointed out by Mr. Morris that Mr. Black had given valuable information voluntarily and that the Company's action in denying him access to the plant was in the nature of a penalty, even though indirect, and would adversely affect others in a position similar to Mr. Black's.

The Company then advised the Subcommittee that it desired to cooperate fully and that it would consider readmitting Mr. Black to the plant providing some responsible Government agency with knowledge of the facts gave assurance of Mr. Black's present loyalty to the United States. Request for such assurance was made of the Armed Forces who advised that since Mr. Black was not then involved in performance under any classified contracts, and since Atlas Refinery, Inc. itself was not at the moment engaged in the performance of such contracts, there was no procedure under which Mr. Black might be cleared. They suggested that request might be made directly to the F.B.I. through the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. I spoke with Mr. Morris, counsel for the Subcommittee, on Thursday, May 24th, and he requested that I contact Mr. L. B. Nichols of your office. In conversation today, Friday, May 25, 1956, with Mr. Nichols, I was advised as follows:

RECORDED - 72

65-59181-406

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

- 2 -

May 25, 1956

1. The F.B.I. has come to observe Thomas L. Black for some time and it has no evidence of any activity subsequent to the time of Mr. Black's full disclosure to the F.B.I. in and about 1950 which would suggest that he is not now a loyal citizen of the United States;

2. That the F.B.I. has interposed no objection to Mr. Black's activity at the Atlas Refinery, Inc. and would interpose no objection to his continued activity there.

I have endeavored to set forth my understanding of the import of Mr. Nichols' remarks to me on the 'phone. If I have misstated them or omitted anything of importance, will you kindly advise me immediately. If I do not receive such advice within a reasonable time, I will assume that my understanding as above stated is correct and will meet with the Company to act upon the information.

May I express my thanks to your organization for its kind help in this matter.

Very truly yours,

CAREY, SCHEM & JARDINE

Thomas V. Jardine
Thomas V. Jardine

TVJ/je
Registered - RRR
Air Mail - Special Delivery

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Mason _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Mr. Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

What does this mean?

(BLACK)

NEWARK, N.J.--CHEMIST THOMAS L. BLACK, BANNED FROM THE ATLAS REFINERY HERE SINCE TESTIFYING HE ONCE WORKED FOR A SOVIET SPY RING, WAS CLEARED TODAY.

ATLAS PRESIDENT ARTHUR F. SCHROEDER SAID BLACK, 48, WOULD RETURN TO WORK AT NOON FRIDAY.

SCHROEDER SAID THE FIRM HAD DECIDED TO READMIT BLACK AFTER A STUDY OF HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE AND "A VERY SATISFACTORY" CONFERENCE WITH FBI AGENTS.

BLACK WAS SUSPENDED MAY 18 AFTER HE TOLD THE SENATE GROUP IN WASHINGTON THAT HE HAD BEEN A SOVIET SPY IN THE 1940'S. THE CHEMIST, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE P. H. HELIE CO., OF WORCESTER, MASS., HAD BEEN WORKING AT THE ATLAS PLANT UNDER A SPECIAL CONTRACT.

THE SUSPENSION BROUGHT SHARP PROTESTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL ROBERT MORRIS AND BLACK'S EMPLOYER, PERCY HELIE.

5/29--N625P

RECORDED - 27

65-59181-407

16 JUN 7 1956

JUN 31 1956

FBI

Date: 6/4/56

Transmit the following message via _____

AIR TEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESP - R
OO: NEWARK

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mason _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

On 6/2/56 THOMAS BLACK appeared at this office with a rough draft of an article, the first of six which will appear at some later date in the "New York Mirror." BLACK advised that EUGENE LYONS, now connected with "Readers Digest", is writing articles but that as far as he knows, LYONS' name will not appear in the paper. BLACK said that in the first article LYONS has written some information concerning the Amtorg Trading Corp. and other matters with which BLACK is not familiar, but generally the articles will reflect BLACK's story as he told it to the FBI and furnished to the Senate Internal Security Sub-committee.

BLACK was again informed that the Bureau does not desire to censure his articles nor approve them before they appear in the paper. It was suggested to him that he be certain that the articles are truthful to the best of his knowledge and that any references to the Bureau be factual. He advised that any references to the Bureau will be very favorable and that he has no reason whatsoever to be critical to the Bureau at any time.

BLACK stated he would advise this office when the first article is to appear in the "New York Mirror." Furnished for the Bureau's information.

- FOSTER

3 Bureau (65-59181) (REGISTERED MAIL)
1 Newark (65-4074)

FCZ:AF
(4)

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED-5

65-59181-408

JUN 6 1956

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 8 1956

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mason	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WA 1 FROM NEWARK

6-8-56

4-45P

DIRECTOR, FBI

U R G E N T

THOMAS L. BLACK, ESPIONAGE DASH R. BUFILE SIXTYFIVE DASH FIVE NINE
ONE EIGHT ONE. THOMAS BLACK ADVISED TODAY THAT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL AT APPROX. FIVE P.M. YESTERDAY FROM
A MAN WHO TOLD HER TO TELL HER SON TO KEEP AWAY FROM BLACK
BECAUSE HE IS QUOTE "GOING TO GET HIS UNQUOTE BLACK ADVISED THAT
[REDACTED] IS EMPLOYED AT ATLAS REFINERY, NEWARK, WHERE BLACK IS
WORKING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BLACK WAS ADVISED TO REPORT THIS MATTER TO THE
NEWARK PD AND [REDACTED] REPORT IT TO THE BAYONNE PD. BOTH
NEWARK AND BAYONNE PDS WERE FURNISHED FACTS BY NEWARK. BLACK
FURTHER ADVISED HIS FIRST ARTICLE WOULD BE IN NY DAILY
MIRROR SUNDAY, JUNE TEN, AND HE BELIEVES THE OTHER FIVE ARTICLES
WILL APPEAR DAILY THEREAFTER.

FOSTER

END

ACK PLS

WA NK R 1 WA CS

TU DISC

COPIES DESTROYED
47 NOV 21 1960

Mr. Belmont

65-59181-409

JUN 12 1956

bx

JUNE 14, 1956

Boardman
Belmont
Nichols
Wallace
TELETYPE

URGENT

65-59181-409

SAC, NEWARK RECORDED - 52

THOMAS LESSING BLACK, WAS., ESPIONAGE DASH R. REFERENCE COPY OF LETTER TO MR. L. B. NICHOLS AT BUREAU DATED JUNE ELEVEN LAST, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS ADDRESSED TO H. G. FOSTER RE THOMAS L. BLACK DASH ATLAS REFINERY, AND WRITTEN BY THOMAS V. JARDINE. THIS LETTER SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED, IF NOT ALREADY ANSWERED. JARDINE, ATLAS REFINERY ATTORNEY, SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT PROVIDING OF BODYGUARDS AND PROTECTION TO INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING THREATS, AS REPORTED IN HIS LETTER, IS ONE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES, WHO SHOULD BE ADVISED OF ALL DETAILS AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. JARDINE SHOULD ALSO BE TOLD THAT BUREAU HAS NO JURISDICTION RE ISSUANCE OF GUN PERMITS, WHICH IS STRICTLY LOCAL MATTER, AND THAT BUREAU NOT IN POSITION TO ADVISE AS TO WHAT STEPS, IF ANY, ATLAS REFINERY SHOULD TAKE RE MEASURES FOR MR. BLACK DASH'S SAFETY. THIS IS STRICTLY LOCAL MATTER TO BE TAKEN UP BY HIM WITH LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES. HE SHOULD ALSO BE ADVISED ANY INFO OR ADVICE HE DESIRES FROM SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD BE OBTAINED BY HIM FROM THAT GROUP DIRECTLY. COPY OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO AFORE DASH MENTIONED LETTER SHOULD BE ROUTED TO ~~MR. L. B. NICHOLS~~ OF BUREAU FOR INFO.

COPIES DESTROYED

R 47 NOV 21 1960

BUFILE 65-59181

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HOOVER
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 14 1956

TELETYPE

Covermemo Belmont to Boardman prepared by HHW:sm 6-14-56 re this outgoing mail.

June 11, 1956

Mr. M. G. Foster, Chief Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
1180 Raymond Boulevard
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Sir: Re: Thomas L. Black - Atlas Refinery, Inc.

I am writing to you on behalf of Atlas Refinery, Inc., 142 Lockwood Street, Newark. As you may know, a little over a week ago the Company readmitted Thomas L. Black, formally Soviet spy, to its plant premises here in Newark. Mr. Black's return to the job has been without incident except for the matter which came to our attention last weekend. Here are the facts as they are given to the writers.

1. The Company has been advised that on Thursday, June 7th, some unknown person called the home of a young laboratory assistant employed by Atlas.

[redacted] answered the phone and was told by this unknown person that [redacted] should stay away from Thomas Black because Thomas Black was "going to get his."

2. Of course Black was advised of this by Alexander, and we are informed went directly to your office. We are told further that local police in Newark and in Bayonne [redacted] were alerted.

3. Thomas Black called Mr. Schroeder, president of the Atlas Refinery, Inc., last Saturday, June 9th, and advised him of all of the foregoing. As counsel for Atlas Refinery I have advised the Company to suggest to Mr. Black that he secure from your office and from the Senate Subcommittee all possible assistance for his personal protection. I am told Mr. Black believes he should be given a gun permit. This matter, too, I have advised should properly be taken up with your office and with the Senate Subcommittee. As far as the Company is concerned, it is most willing to cooperate in any proper measures that may be felt necessary in that connection for Mr. Black's safety.

RECORDED - 52

65-59181-11

If there are any steps which you feel the Atlas Refinery should take in this matter, please let me know right away.

23 JUN 19 1956

INDEXED, Truly yours,

EX-134 CAREY, SCHENK & JARDINE

65-59181-410
Thomas V. Jardine N.J.

FVJ/jk
CC: Mr. L. B. Nichols
FBI, Washington, D. C.

JUN 20 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

DATE: June 14, 1956

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was
ESPIONAGE - R

Tolson	_____
Nichols	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mason	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Nease	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

A copy of a letter dated 6-11-56, original of which was addressed to H. G. Foster of our Newark Office re Thomas L. Black - Atlas Refinery, was directed to Mr. L. B. Nichols in the Bureau. This letter, written by Thomas V. Jardine of Carey, Schenk and Jardine, attorneys for the Atlas Refinery, Inc., advised that Black has returned to work without incident except for the following:

Black, according to Jardine, called Mr. Schroeder, president of the Atlas Refinery, Inc., on June 9 and advised that on June 7, an unknown person had called the home of [redacted] laboratory assistant employed by Atlas and a friend of Black's. [redacted] he answered the phone, was told by an unknown person that [redacted] should stay away from Black as Black was "going to [redacted]". Black advised that he had been told of the above [redacted]. Jardine stated in his letter that he understood our Newark Office, the local police in Newark and in Bayonne, New Jersey, [redacted] times, were alerted.

As counsel for Atlas, Jardine stated he advised the Company to suggest to Black that Black secure from the FBI and from the Senate Subcommittee, all possible assistance for his personal protection. Jardine states he was told by Black that Black believes he should be given a gun permit and Jardine advised him that this matter should be taken up with the FBI and with the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. Jardine, in his letter, also stated that if there were any steps the FBI feels the Atlas Refinery should take in the above matter, i.e., for Mr. Black's safety, he would like to know of these right away.

Enclosure

65-59181

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Nichols
Mr. WallaceRECORDED - 52
INDEXED - 52

FBI - X1

65-59181-411
23 JUN 18 1956

HFW:sm

457 JUN 18 1956

Memorandum from Belmont to Boardman:

By teletype 6-8-56 Newark Office advised of the threat to Black and stated Black was advised to notify the Newark Police Department and to [REDACTED] notify the Bayonne Police Department. Both Newark and Bayonne Police Departments were furnished facts by the Newark Office.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Mr. L. B. Nichols advise Robert Morris, counsel for Internal Security Subcommittee, of the threat made to Thomas L. Black through [REDACTED]

OKH.

2. That the attached teletype be forwarded to Newark advising that Office that Jardine's letter to SAC Foster be acknowledged, if not already answered, and that Jardine be advised bodyguards, protection, issuance of gun permits, and safety precautions to be exercised by Atlas Refinery are local matters to be taken up with local police authorities and that any suggestions or information desired by Jardine from the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee should be obtained by him from that group directly.

6-14-56

ALICE COMMONS STILL
ANSWERED TO JARDINE NOT
YET MAILED.

1/10/56

OKH.

B7C

7/2/56

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 6/14/56

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
OO: NEWARK

ReBulet 5/31/56.

On June 8, 1956, THOMAS L. BLACK was interviewed regarding his testimony concerning a conversation he had with JOSEPH KATZ about the death of CARLO TRESKA.

BLACK stated that he thought he had previously furnished that information to the Bureau, but it was possible that he did not. He said he could furnish little more concerning the matter than what appeared in his testimony. He said that shortly after TRESKA's death he had a meeting with "JACK" (JOSEPH KATZ), at which time BLACK mentioned to JACK the fact that the Trotskyites were saying that TRESKA was murdered by the Communists, and he felt that this gave the Communist movement a bad name. Thereupon, according to BLACK, JACK said that TRESKA was an enemy of the working class, and he had been tried in Moscow in absentia, and received a fair trial. JACK also made the statement that the death of TRESKA was not murder, but an execution. BLACK said that he and JACK discussed the case just briefly, and the above is all he can remember concerning statements made. He recalls that he felt at the time that JACK knew what he was talking about and although JACK did not deny that the Communists had liquidated TRESKA, he did not make a definite statement that they did.

BLACK advised further that EUGENE LYONS, in discussing the matter with BLACK, indicated that he felt that KATZ told BLACK the above regarding TRESKA's murder in order to frighten BLACK and prevent any defection on his part. BLACK said he did not agree with LYONS, as he felt that at the time this discussion took place there was no particular reason for JACK to try to frighten BLACK, and as he stated before, he felt at that time that JACK knew what he was talking about. BLACK could furnish no further information regarding this matter and advised that he knew nothing else concerning the death of TRESKA.

RECORDED - 72

2-Bureau (65-59181) REGISTERED MAIL

1-Newark (65-4074)

FCZ:fa

(3)

INDEXED - 72

EX-120

65-59181-412

copy made
11/1/56

NK 65-14074
LETTER TO DIRECTOR, FBI
RE: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

6/14/56

Regarding Newark Teletype to the Bureau dated June 8, 1956, concerning the telephone call made to [REDACTED] a friend of BLACK, the Newark Office received a letter concerning this matter from THOMAS V. JARDINE, Attorney, Atlas Refinery, Incorporated. A copy of JARDINE's letter was designated for Assistant to the Director L. B. NICHOLS.

The Newark Office has answered Mr. JARDINE's letter, advising him that THOMAS BLACK furnished this Office all details regarding the telephone call, and advising him that we are unable to suggest any action to be taken by his client in connection with this matter.

b7c

'T WAS A RED SPY!'

Tom Barely Escapes Involvement In the Trotsky Death Plot

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mason _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Nease _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

MR. BRANIGAN

The Reds pull strings—and the murderous web tightens around a sick old man, the Communists' arch-foe, Trotsky, in Mexico. Was a gullible American chemist slated to swing the fatal ax? How he struggled out of the assignment is disclosed here by Thomas L. Black, 12-year member of the Soviet spy net, in the fifth of a series of articles.

By THOMAS L. BLACK with EUGENE LYONS

I was in the Trotskyist camp as a "sleeper," to be yanked into action by my Soviet puppet-masters when they wished. The strings were not pulled for more than two years. Meanwhile my original orders stood: to ingratiate myself with Trotsky's most important American friends.

Except for a sinking sense of guilt over my double role, the assignment was really to my taste. I had in fact come close to the Trotsky viewpoint in my thinking. Now, mixing with his disciples and reading their literature, I easily identified myself with their movement.

When it came to lambasting Stalin and his crimes, in true Trotskyist style, I could put my whole heart into it. The continuing blood-bath of the big purges, turning the Soviet dream into an obscene nightmare, made that easy and heart-warming.

MY MEETINGS with Paul tapered off. Evidently he was seeing me just often enough to make sure the strings were still firmly attached. Somewhere along the line, without a fond farewell, he vanished and I was never to see him again. The agent who took his place was "George"—whom I now know to have been another Amtorg employe named Semion Seminov. (Harry Gold also worked under Seminov about the same time.)

I was able to report truthfully—to Paul and then to his successor—that I was making friends in the anti-Stalin party.

One obvious way to ingratiate myself was by donating generously to Trotskyist papers and causes. My spy-chiefs considered this a legitimate expense and gladly gave me small sums, to which I added more out of my own pocket. I took a certain ironic pleasure in using "Soviet gold" to help finance Trotskyism.

65-59181-A
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191 JUN 20 1956

Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
Wash. News _____
Wash. Star _____
N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
N. Y. Mirror _____
N. Y. Daily News _____
Daily Worker _____
The Worker _____
New Leader _____

Date JUN 14 1956

JUN 22 1956

Enter 'Dr. Schwartz'

EARLY IN 1938 I suffered a serious accident in my plant and was confined in a hospital for 20 weeks. I still carry the scars on my arm. But the uglier scars are on my conscience. For it was at the hospital, when I had been there about 10 weeks, that Red espionage reached out for me again.

One day a mysterious "Dr. Schwartz" came to my hospital room. From the way he read the bed-chart and examined my burns it was clear he was really a physician. No word passed to suggest that it was anything but a medical call. Yet I knew at once he was a Soviet agent, come to look me over.

Some time after my return to work, I was called to the next prearranged rendezvous. I expected Semenov, but found instead my hospital visitor. The new "contact" called himself Robert or some such name.

More than a decade later, when I was cooperating with the FBI, I identified Robert from photographs. I then learned he was really Dr. Gregor Rabinovich, with a string of punitive murders in Europe to his credit. He was in the U. S. ostensibly as a representative of the Soviet Red Cross.

IN HIS RECENT BOOK, "Soviet Espionage," Dr. David Dalin writes that this Russian doctor "had been sent to the U. S. at the height of the purge with the assignment of investigating Trotskyites and organizing the assassination of Leon Trotsky." Louis Budenz, in his testimony after breaking with the party, also tied

Dr. Rabinovich into the Mexican murder plans.

To me, Robert was just another of the faceless, nameless men whose orders I must obey—or else! After a few exploratory meetings, he got down to brass tacks. This was to be the payoff on my long cultivation of friendships in the Trotskyist movement.

"Tom," he announced, "the time has come for action. You're to quit your job immediately and proceed to Coyoacan near Mexico City. Your Trotskyist friends should be able to help you enter Trotsky's household. We have people there already who will help if necessary."

A chill went down my spine. So that was what I was being reserved for—to join the Communist vultures hovering around the exiled leader in Coyoacan!

"Why must I go there?" I ventured. "It's no, easy on such short notice."

That's no concern of yours. You'll get contacted and told what you need to know when the time comes. Use your Trotskyist connections to gain admittance. We'll do the rest."

I PROTESTED that I must think it over. "I'll do the thinking," Robert snarled. This was an order, and the penalty for disobedience would be drastic.

We agreed to meet within a week, when I would presumably have completed preparations. I racked my brain for a plausible alibi for not going. Fortunately I found one ready-made. I was waiting to be called before the Workmen's Compensation Board in connection with substantial claims on my accident. My sudden resignation from a good job, coupled with failure to show up before the board, I argued, would be reckless conduct. It was sure to arouse suspicion, especially among fellow-workers who might already suspect my politics.

Robert was angry and unhappy. He muttered that it was

a blow to his plans. But he was forced to admit the logic of my argument. That was the end of this episode, and my last meeting with the killer-doctor.

For nearly two years thereafter the Soviet espionage bravos chose to let me alone. Once more I was convinced they had given me up as useless. I now worked in the Trotskyist ranks with a clearer conscience.

In August, 1940, I read the sensational news that Trotsky had been killed in his Coyoacan stronghold by a man who posed as a disciple and friend. I realized with a shudder that, but for the grace of God, I might have been implicated in the killing.

IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE that the strings were pulled again soon after the crime of Coyoacan. With the example of Trotsky's murder vivid in my imagination, I had no doubts about my own danger. The network was making certain I was still safely on leash.

The "contact" was now a faceless Jack. As we walked in midtown Manhattan, I reassured him about my "loyalty."

To make sure, he continued to summon me at fairly frequent intervals until early in 1943, though sometimes a substitute, "John," kept his appointments. Jack, I believe, was a Czechoslovak, and John probably Italian. Both spoke with distinctive accents.

Soviet Russia had by then become our ally in the big war. I must suppose my "contacts" were minor figures to be assigned to holding a petty agent like Tom Black in line. There were more important jobs—Soviet spies were enjoying a field day under cover of war tasks.

Disillusionment, terror of sudden death, and his efforts to get free of the spy network are described by Black in the sixth and final article of this series, in Friday's MIRROR.



"One day a mysterious 'Dr. Schwartz' came to my hospital room. From the way he read the bed-chart and examined my burns, it was clear that he was really a physician... yet, I knew at once that he was a Soviet agent, come to look me over."

(Illustration by Don Sherman)



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
1836 Raymond-Commerce Building
Newark 2, New Jersey

June 13, 1956

Mr. Thomas V. Jardine
Carey, Schenk and Jardine
Raymond-Commerce Building
Newark 2, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

Your letter of June 11, 1956, has been received.

Please be advised that Thomas Black appeared at our office on June 8, 1956, and furnished in detail all the information set forth in your letter.

The providing of bodyguards or other protection for individuals receiving threats, such as in this case, is a matter for local police authorities, who should be informed of all details and any subsequent developments.

I am not in a position to advise as to what steps, if any, your client should take in connection with Mr. Black's safety, as this, too, is a matter for your client and local police authorities.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has no jurisdiction in connection with the issuance of gun permits, which is also within the province of local authorities.

Any information or advice you may desire from the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee should be obtained by you directly from that Committee.

Very truly yours,

INDEXED - 37

NOT RECORDED

H. G. Foster is JUN 21 1956
Special Agent in Charge

cc: 1-Bureau (65-59181) (info)

NK 65-4074

FCZ:AM

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEWARK	DATE 7/2/56	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/19, 22/56
TITLE OF CASE THOMAS L. BLACK, was		REPORT MADE BY ROBERT W. COHOLAN	TYPED BY mjf
		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

NOTES:

[REDACTED] Sperry Gyroscope Co., advised there were two projects of a classified nature at Sperry Gyroscope during the war, which involved tracing aircraft. Description of both set forth.

- RUC -

DETAILS: On June 19, 1956, [REDACTED] Sperry Gyroscope Company, Lake Success, New York, advised SA LEO H. FRUTKIN that there were two projects of a classified nature at Sperry Gyroscope Company during the war, which involved tracing aircraft, one being for the United States Navy; the other for the Air Force. He described each as follows:

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

~~2-13-78~~ 139

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AGENCY _____
REQ. FROM _____
REF. TO _____
BY _____

66 JUL 10 1956

NY 65-15338

1. Navy Contract

Mark 14 gun sight

It was mounted on a Navy vessel for anti-aircraft work. Its mechanism was based on two gyros attached to mirrors, which enabled the gunner to obtain the lead angle on enemy aircraft. This device was first placed on the anti-aircraft gun itself, but the smoke from the gun interfered with the tracing. Therefore, they took the Mark 14 and fitted it into the Mark 51 fire control system as a component of it. This Mark 51 and Mark 14 was located about 30 feet from the gun on board the ship.

Later the Mark 14 became known as the Mark 63. Right up to the end of the war modifications of the Mark 14 were still being carried on. It is now declassified.

2. Air Force Contract

K 14 Gun sight

This is a modification of the British Mark 2. It operates on a single gyro mounted on an airplane. It would pick up enemy aircraft in a mirror and the sights could be adjusted according to the known wing span of the enemy plane. It was worked on to the end of the war, and is now declassified.

- R U C -

NY 65-15338

LEADS

PHILADELPHIA

At Philadelphia, Pa.

One copy of this report is being furnished to the Philadelphia Office inasmuch as MORRIS FRIEDMAN, who formerly worked at Sperry Gyroscope and had discussed his work there with BLACK, presently resides in the Philadelphia Division.

REFERENCE Philadelphia letter to Bureau, 5/31/56.
Bulet to NY, 6/12/56.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEWARK	DATE 7/2/56	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/19, 22/56
TITLE OF CASE THOMAS L. BLACK, was		REPORT MADE BY ROBERT W. CONOLAN	TYPED BY mjf
		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

SYNOPSIS:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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REPORTING OFFICE PHILADELPHIA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEWARK	DATE JUL 6 1956	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/18,21;7/2/56
TITLE OF CASE THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.		REPORT MADE BY CHARLES SILVERTHORN	TYPED BY clp
		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

SYNOPSIS:

MORRIS FRIEDMAN, Reading, Pa., volunteered information on subject after he recently saw newspaper article indicating subject testified before "Congressional Committee" regarding espionage activity on behalf of Russians. Knew subject as fellow student at Penn State College during period 1926 to 1930. Toward end of World War II, FRIEDMAN was employed as Process Engineer by Sperry Gyroscope Company, Lake Success, N.Y. FRIEDMAN aware that company was doing classified work for Navy involving aiming device used in computing range and speed of planes although FRIEDMAN did not actually work on project. While visiting subject in Newark, subject asked questions about the aforementioned computing device. FRIEDMAN surprised subject knew about project. Stated subject never attempted to recruit him for espionage purposes.

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PH 65-4332

DETAILS: The "Philadelphia Evening Bulletin" dated May 17, 1956, page 2, column 4, carried an article datelined Washington, May 17, 1956, in which it was stated that the Senate Internal Subcommittee heard Chemist THOMAS BLACK of Newark, N.J., testify that he gave industrial secrets to Soviet agents from 1933 to 1940.

At Reading, Pa.

MORRIS FRIEDMAN, 1816 North 16th Street, Reading, Pa., on May 18, 1956, voluntarily contacted SA MAHLON J. PRICE stating that he wished to furnish information on the subject. FRIEDMAN mentioned he saw an article in the local press indicating that the subject had testified before some "Congressional Committee" regarding his espionage activities on behalf of the Russians.

FRIEDMAN stated he first knew subject as a fellow student at Pennsylvania State College from approximately 1926 to 1930. FRIEDMAN was graduated in 1930 and subject was unable to graduate because of lack of money.

FRIEDMAN recalled that subject had a roommate with whom he was very close. This roommate was named FERDINAND HELLER. FRIEDMAN stated that he last saw HELLER around 1931, at which time HELLER resided at 199 West Chew Street, Philadelphia, Pa. FRIEDMAN recalled that subject was called "TASSO" when they attended college, but he had no idea where the nickname originated. FRIEDMAN cannot recall that subject or HELLER were interested in Communism, but he did recall that they passed out tracts put out by the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism.

Around 1930 or 1931, FRIEDMAN was experiencing difficulty in obtaining employment as a teacher. FRIEDMAN went on a hitchhiking trip with HELLER to see the former's uncle in Massachusetts. On the way, they stopped to see subject, who was living in Newark, N.J. He recalled that the subject lived in an apartment house development, possibly owned by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. There was a fourth individual present, but FRIEDMAN could not remember who he was. Subject spent most of his time with HELLER and FRIEDMAN, but he could not remember anything of significance that was discussed.

PH 65-4332

Toward the end of World War II, FRIEDMAN was employed as a Process Engineer by the Sperry Gyroscope Company at Lake Success, New York. He was working on the development of the gyroscope which was classified work. FRIEDMAN was also aware that this firm was doing some other classified work for the Navy, which was some sort of aiming device to be used by planes. FRIEDMAN knew that the instrument involved the use of mirrors and that it was used in computing the range and speed of a plane. FRIEDMAN stated this was all he knew about the project since he never actually worked on the project and he never had access to the classified information regarding the project.

About this time, FRIEDMAN recalled visiting the subject in Newark, N.J., about three or four times. On one of the visits, subject asked him a general question, such as what he was doing at the Sperry Gyroscope Company. FRIEDMAN advised that he never told the subject what type of work he was doing because of its confidential nature. In addition to the above general question, subject also asked some general questions about the computing device previously described. FRIEDMAN pointed this out to indicate that the subject was aware of this project involving classified work. FRIEDMAN cannot recall exactly what the subject's questions were other than the fact that they were general in nature. FRIEDMAN stated he could not have talked about the project if he wanted to because he had no specific information other than that mentioned above. FRIEDMAN advised at this point that subject never attempted to recruit him for espionage purposes. FRIEDMAN stated he was surprised that subject knew about the Navy project at Sperry.

FRIEDMAN also advised that subject had invented some type of medical cream which could be used as a base for medicine and which would not cause a scab or wound to adhere to a bandage. Subject sold his rights to this cream to some firm in New York City for \$3,000.

On May 21, 1956, FRIEDMAN advised SA MAHLON J. PRICE that the firm in question was the Fine Organics Company, 211 East 19th Street, New York City.

FRIEDMAN concluded by stating that in thinking back over his contacts with the subject, he recalled that subject was always apprehensive. When he would enter subject's

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PH 65-4332

apartment, subject always looked down the hall in back of him as if he were looking to see if anyone else was there. FRIEDMAN also recalled that he and the subject very often talked over old times on a park bench and that when they returned to subject's apartment, subject always inspected every room in an effort to determine if anyone had been in the apartment. The only remark that FRIEDMAN recalled subject made about the Russians was when the subject asked FRIEDMAN what he planned to do after the war. When FRIEDMAN replied that he did not know, subject told him that he could get a good job in Russia.

FRIEDMAN is presently employed by the J.C. Ehrlich Company of Reading.

* * * * *

Subject was questioned during July 1950 by SAs ROBERT W. HOLMES and WILLIAM E. WELIE, JR., concerning MORRIS FRIEDMAN. BLACK related this individual lived at 537 North 11th Street, Reading, Pa., and was his roommate at Pennsylvania State College for two semesters. On one occasion, after BLACK starting working for Berg Laboratories in Philadelphia, he saw FRIEDMAN socially in Philadelphia. BLACK did not mention any other information concerning FRIEDMAN.

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- 4 -

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PH 65-4332

Administrative Details

The purpose of this phase of investigation is to determine why BLACK was asking MORRIS FRIEDMAN about confidential Navy work at Sperry Gyroscope Company toward the end of World War II. Since BLACK has always maintained he engaged only in industrial espionage, it is believed that he should be asked whether his interest in the Sperry Gyroscope Company was out of curiosity or was actually for the benefit of the Russians.

Leads

NEW YORK:

AT LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.

1. Will attempt to identify the Navy classified project involving the aiming device to be used by planes in computing range and speed as mentioned by FRIEDMAN.

It should be noted that FRIEDMAN states that work was being done on this project at Sperry Gyroscope Company, Lake Success, toward the end of World War II.

2. If identified, will forward detailed information concerning the Navy project to Newark for use in the reinterview of BLACK.

NEWARK:

AT NEWARK, N.J.

When New York has obtained detailed information concerning the aforementioned Navy classified project, will reinterview BLACK regarding his association with FRIEDMAN.

It should be determined from BLACK how he knew about the confidential Navy project at Sperry Gyroscope Company and why he was questioning FRIEDMAN about the project.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

PH 65-4332

Leads (continued)

NEWARK (continued)

He should also be questioned as to whether his interest in the Navy project at Sperry Gyroscope Company was for the benefit of the Russians.

References

Philadelphia letter to Bureau 5/31/56.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONTINUED)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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REPORTING OFFICE PHILADELPHIA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEWARK	DATE JUL 6 1956	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/18,21;7/2/56
TITLE OF CASE THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.		REPORT MADE BY CHARLES SILVERTHORN	TYPED BY clp
		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

SYNOPSIS:

MORRIS FRIEDMAN, Reading, Pa., volunteered information on subject after he recently saw newspaper article indicating subject testified before "Congressional Committee" regarding espionage activity on behalf of Russians. Knew subject as fellow student at Penn State College during period 1926 to 1930. Toward end of World War II, FRIEDMAN was employed as Process Engineer by Sperry Gyroscope Company, Lake Success, N.Y. FRIEDMAN aware that company was doing classified work for Navy involving aiming device used in computing range and speed of planes although FRIEDMAN did not actually work on project. While visiting subject in Newark, subject asked questions about the aforementioned computing device. FRIEDMAN surprised subject knew about project. Stated subject never attempted to recruit him for espionage purposes.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 7-13-56	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/11, 13/56	REPORT MADE BY FREDERICK C. ZINCK mae
TITLE THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - RACIES
AGENCY NEWARK			APPROVED [Signature]
REQ. NO. 7-13-56			DATE 7-13-56
REF. NO. 7-13-56			BY [Signature]

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

THOMAS BLACK, upon interview, denies ever having any information about a classified project at Sperry Gyroscope Company during World War II; stated that if he asked MORRIS FRIEDMAN any questions regarding this project, FRIEDMAN must have mentioned it. He advised he was never asked by Soviet superiors to obtain any information regarding such a project at Sperry Gyroscope.

DETAILS:

MORRIS FRIEDMAN, 1818 North 16th Street, Reading, Pa., on May 18, 1956, advised SA MAHLON J. PRICE that he had been a fellow student of subject's at Pennsylvania State College from 1926 to 1930 and had seen him on occasion since that time. FRIEDMAN advised that toward the end of World War II, when he was employed at Sperry Gyroscope, Lake Success, New York, he visited subject in Newark, N. J. on three or four occasions. He recalled that subject had asked him about a classified Navy project at Sperry Gyroscope which involved some sort of aiming or computing device for use on airplanes. He also stated that he remembered that subject told him that after the War he, FRIEDMAN, could get a good job in Russia.

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NK 65-4074

THOMAS L. BLACK, admitted former Soviet Espionage Agent, was interviewed on July 11, 1956 concerning his association with MORRIS FRIEDMAN of Reading, Pa. At that time, BLACK furnished the following information:

He originally knew FRIEDMAN while they were students at Pennsylvania College in the late twenties after which time he had some contact with FRIEDMAN. Sometime in 1944 or 1945, when FRIEDMAN was working at Sperry Gyroscope, New York, FRIEDMAN visited BLACK in Newark, N. J. on a few occasions. BLACK cannot recall any of their conversations during these visits.

BLACK definitely did not have knowledge concerning any classified work being conducted at the Sperry Gyroscope Company. Work of the type that would be handled by that company was foreign to BLACK and he would have had no interest therein. BLACK is certain that if any classified project, such as a computing device, was discussed by FRIEDMAN and him, FRIEDMAN must have mentioned it first and then possibly BLACK asked a question or two concerning it. He cannot recall, however, ever having knowledge of any such project and is certain that he did not ask about it unless it was first mentioned or discussed by FRIEDMAN. He feels that FRIEDMAN must be confused about this matter and is incorrect in his statements.

BLACK is also certain that he did not tell FRIEDMAN at that time (1944-1945) that he could get a good job in Russia because he then felt so strongly against the Russians he would not have told anyone that he could get a good job in Russia even in a joking manner. He thinks, however, that he might have made such a statement to FRIEDMAN in the early thirties when he himself was interested in going to Russia to work.

BLACK was never asked by his Soviet contacts to attempt to obtain any information concerning any classified project being conducted by any branch of the United States Government or Armed Services. The Sperry Gyroscope Company, or any of its work was never mentioned to BLACK by any of his Soviet superiors. The only time he was ever asked to do something which might have resulted in other than industrial espionage was when he was asked to get a job at the Kellogg Corporation in New York, which company, according to his Soviet contact, was working on vital material. He did not

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NK 65-4074

get a job there but later learned that Kellex Corporation had been working on some phase of the Manhattan Project.

BLACK, although he was still contacted by Soviet Agents, was very much against the Russians during World War II and never attempted to get information of any kind for them during 1944 and 1945.

BLACK advised that he could furnish no further information concerning FRIEDMAN's statements regarding their conversations in 1944 or 1945.

- C -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NK 65-4074

Since all investigation in this case has been completed and the return of BLACK's property to him has been taken care of, this case is being closed.

The Newark Office will remain in contact with BLACK and will handle any request from other offices to interview him or exhibit photographs to him.

LEAD:

PHILADELPHIA (INFORMATION):

A copy of this report is being furnished to the Philadelphia Office for information since MORRIS FRIEDMAN resides in that division.

REFERENCES

Report of SA CHARLES SILVERTHORN, dated 7/6/56
at Philadelphia.

Report of SA ROBERT W. COHOLAN, dated 7/2/56
at New York.

Bureau letter to New York, dated 6/12/56/

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 7-13-56	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/11, 18/56	REPORT MADE BY FREDERICK C. ZINCK mze
TITLE THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R

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- C -

DETAILS:

MORRIS FRIEDMAN, 1618 North 16th Street, Reading, Pa., on May 18, 1956, advised SA MARLON J. PRICE that he had been a fellow student of subject's at Pennsylvania State College from 1925 to 1930 and had seen him on occasion since that time. FRIEDMAN advised that toward the end of World War II, when he was employed at Sperry Gyroscope, Lake Success, New York, he visited subject in Newark, N. J. on three or four occasions. He recalled that subject had asked him about a classified Navy project at Sperry Gyroscope which involved some sort of aiming or computing device for use on airplanes. He also stated that he remembered that subject told him that after the War he, FRIEDMAN, could get a good job in Russia.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (65-59181) Registered Mail 1 - Philadelphia (65-4332) (Info) Registered Mail 3 - Newark (65-4074)		- 416	

SEP 26 1956

TO : W. A. Branigan

FROM: H. H. WALLACE JR

THOMAS L. BLACK

Esp - R

Captioned case has been reviewed and careful consideration given to the advisability of any re-interviews, interviews or other action which may now appear warranted. In the event such now appears desirable, necessary action is being initiated.

Bureau file: 65-59181

65-59181-✓

NOT RECORDED

23 OCT 2 1956

71 OCT 3 1956

Director, FBI

11/1/56

SAC, Philadelphia (100-38224)

GEORGE ALBERT SCYTHES, was.

SM - SEP

OO - Milwaukee

Re Milwaukee letter to Philadelphia 10/18/56.

Relet advised that subject is under deportation proceedings by INS, Milwaukee, Wis. In connection with this case, INS desires to know whether THOMAS L. BLACK would be available to testify at such proceedings. Information furnished by BLACK is contained in Philadelphia file 65-4332-1B-17, page 325. Philadelphia was requested to advise if BLACK is available to testify.

The following is a documentation of the information concerning subject in Philadelphia file 65-4332-1B-17, page 325:

Identity:	THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
Date of Activity or Description of Information:	SCYTHES drove BLACK and other SWP members to Trenton and Leonia, N. J., 11/9/37
Received:	6/29/50
Agent Receiving Information:	SAs ROBERT W. HOLMES and WILLIAM B. WELKE, Jr.

For the information of Milwaukee, BLACK presently resides at RD #1, Box 243, Englishtown, N. J., in care of VICTOR DECKER.

- 3 - Bureau (1 - 65-59181) (BLACK) (Registered Mail)
- 2 - Newark (65-4074) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - Milwaukee (100-11113) (Registered Mail)
- 2 - Philadelphia (1 - 100-38224)
(1 - 65-4332) (BLACK)

CS:JMB
(8)

65-59181-417
NOT RECORDED
151 NOV 2 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

PH 100-38024

Inasmuch as BLACK testified publicly before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on 5/17/56, Newark should contact BLACK and determine if he is available to testify, in accordance with the request of INS. Philadelphia should be furnished a copy of Newark's communication for information.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 12/4/56

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT:

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - RAPPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND
ADVISED
DATE 2-13-78 BY [signature]

GIL 1

RE THOMAS BLACK

2-11-78 AD/ria

3 - Bureau (2 - 65-59181) (Registered Mail)

2 - Newark (65-4074) (Registered Mail)

2 - Philadelphia (1 - 65-4332)
(1 - 65-5131)RECORDED-56
INDEXED-56CS:ARD
(7)

65-59181-418

25 DEC 5 1956

EX-127

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

It is, therefore, suggested that Newark interview BLACK along the lines suggested above. (u)

Bureau authority is not necessary for this recontact since BLACK has been cooperative in the past and since he has been utilized as a source of information. (u)

CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: 12/13/56

FROM : SAC, Newark (65-4074)

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R3-Bureau
2-Newark
WEJ:hp
(5)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-13-78 BY SP8M
014913

AP/C 2/11/78

CONFIDENTIAL

65-59181-419

DEC 17 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 12/27/56

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESP - R

RePHlet to the Bureau, 12/4/56. (u)

3 - Bureau (RM)

(1) [REDACTED]

1 - Philadelphia (65-4332) (RM)

2 - Newark

(1) [REDACTED]

FCZ/njm

(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.Classified by 4913
Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3
Date of Review 2/11/78
AP/CS~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

AND FIELD OFFICES

ADVISED BY ROUTING

SLIP (S)

DATE 2/13/78

RECORDED - 1

65-59181-420

DEC 31 1956

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 65-1491-1

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. NICHOLS

DATE: 2-4-57

FROM : L. E. SHORT

SUBJECT: SUMMARIES OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES
IN THE UNITED STATES
Bufile 100-345686

Tolson _____
 Nichols _____
 Boardman _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 Nease _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

We have received 29 volumes (Part 1 through Part 28 and also Part 7-A) of hearings before a Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States Senate captioned "Scope of Soviet Activity in the United States." These hearings were held during 1956 and as they were held the Bureau received stenographic transcripts and photostats of the various hearings. As received these have been reviewed, memoranda prepared, and indexing has been done.

In order to file all of these volumes as well as future volumes in this series that may be received, this memorandum should be filed in the above captioned file. Separately, 150 copies of this memorandum on plastiplat are being requisitioned in order that our Classifiers may place a copy in files of individuals on whom the Bureau maintains a separate case file. This will minimize indexing and make our subject matter files more up to date. We do not propose to index individuals in the 29 volumes when we place a copy of this memorandum in their case file.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That this be referred to the Espionage Section for the attention of Mr. Turner.
2. That the attached requisition for 150 plastiplat copies be approved.

LML:vsk
(150)

ENCLOSURE

See 62-88217-1474
 for unduplicated testimony
 See 100-345686-76 and
 Part 21, Request 113-1124
 for unduplicated copy of
 testimony of Beach

165-59181-✓
 NOT RECORDED
 199 FEB 8 1957

6457712 1957

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 2/13/57

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (65-4074)

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
OO: NEWARK

Re Philadelphia letter to Newark dated 1/8/57.

Forwarded herewith to the Bureau and the Philadelphia Office is one photostat each of six articles written by the subject and EUGENE LYONS, which appeared in the "New York Mirror" from 6/10/56 through 6/15/56.

These articles are furnished to Philadelphia per its request and to the Bureau to complete its file.

2 - Bureau (6 encl) (REG. MAIL)
1 - Philadelphia (65-4332) (6 encl) (REG. MAIL)
1 - Newark
FCZ:rk
(4)

RECORDED-45

INDEXED - 45

65-59181-42
24 FEB 13 1957

FBI REC

FEB 25 1957

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. A. Branigan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Aull

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 5/3/62

SECRET

Tolson _____

Belmont _____

Mohr _____

Callahan _____

Conrad _____

DeLoach _____

Evans _____

Malone _____

Rosen _____

Sullivan _____

Tavel _____

Trotter _____

Tele. Room _____

Holmes _____

Gandy _____

REC-24

There is attached a letterhead memorandum from the Newark Office setting forth the results of an interview with Thomas L. Black on 4/5/62. Black has been the subject of a previous investigation by the Bureau in connection with the operations of Harry Gold and others who were involved in Soviet espionage. He has admitted his former espionage activities and has been interviewed on several occasions in the past for the purpose of developing further information regarding Soviet espionage activities. (u)

ACTION:

It is recommended that the attached letterhead memorandum be placed in the main file of Thomas L. Black in order that his file will reflect the results of the current interview with him. (u)

ENCLOSURE

Enclosure

65-59181

1 - Mr. Branigan

1 - Mr. Aull

WAA:dcv

(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

REC-24

65-59181-422

16 MAY 4 1962



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Newark, New Jersey

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

April 19, 1962

THOMAS L. BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Thomas L. Black was interviewed on April 5, 1962
by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] *B7c*

At the outset of the interview, Black stated he was still living in Sparta, New Jersey and is presently employed by the Havex Corporation, 589 Ferry Street, Newark, N. J., as a chemist.

Black was shown photographs of various individuals who were involved in the Rosenberg case, including Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, David and Ruth Greenglass, Joel Barr, Alfred Sarant, William Perl, Vivian Glassman and Morton Sobell. He advised that he did not know anyone of these individuals and the only information he could offer would be what he read in the newspapers at the time of the arrest and subsequent trial of the Rosenbergs. He also advised he did not know Morris or Lona Cohen.

Concerning his own activities, Black stated from approximately 1940 to May, 1945, his Soviet principal was Joseph Katz. During this period he also had other principals for short periods of time, but he felt that they were more or less filling in for Katz, who was unavailable. He could not recall the names of these principals. Black stated his recollection was somewhat hazy due to the lapse of time and the only principals whom he recalls real well were Gaik Ovakimian, Paul Peterson, Dr. Gregori Rabinovich, Karl John, Semenov and Joe Katz.

In showing Black pictures of the Rosenberg group, a photograph of Alexander Raev was placed among the pictures. Raev was the only individual Black stated he had ever met. He identified Raev's photograph as being identical with an individual whom he met on two occasions sometime between 1939 and May, 1945. Black stated he believed he was introduced to Raev by Joe Katz. However, he is not certain of this and it

(original in [REDACTED])
65 58068

ENCLOSURE
65-59181-422

THOMAS L. BLACK

could possibly have been someone else. He believed the first meeting occurred in a restaurant in midtown Manhattan. While dining, Raev set up a date for a future meeting.

According to Black, the next meeting occurred about one month later and they met in front of the information booth in Penn Station, New York City. This second meeting was merely a get-acquainted meeting and Black does not recall receiving any assignments. He believed they had dinner together at a restaurant near Penn Station and he did not see Raev any more after this meeting.

Black recalled Raev as the type of person who always seemed to wear a smile. He had a pleasant personality and he impressed Black as being a novice in the "spy business". Black explained this by stating that he felt Raev violated a breach of security by arranging for a meet in front of the information booth at Penn Station. Black felt that a more experienced agent would not select such a place for a meet.

In response to an inquiry as to why he hedged on a prior identification of Raev, Black stated that whatever he said at any previous time would have been true to the best of his recollection as of that time. He recalled being previously questioned concerning Raev and recalled stating that he did not know whether or not he had ever met him. In an effort to determine when he met Raev, Black stated that it would have been sometime between 1939 and May, 1945. When he was told that Raev did not enter the United States until February, 1944, Black stated that in that case it would have been between February, 1944 and May, 1945.

Black also stated that from 1933 to May, 1945, he lived in three different apartments on Oxford Street in Newark, N. J. These apartments were owned by the Prudential Insurance Company. He does not recall the addresses on Oxford Street where he lived, but he said that he resided in two different apartments in the same building. He further stated that the purpose of these moves was to break away from the Soviets, which he had been trying to do since 1936. When he moved he would have his telephone number changed to an unlisted number. In addition, he also had his telephone number changed on other occasions without actually moving from an apartment on Oxford Street.

THOMAS L. BLACK

However, Joseph Katz was always able to find him and Katz intimated to him that he had a source in the telephone company for finding unlisted numbers.

The last time he saw Joseph Katz was sometime around May, 1945, after Black moved from Newark, N. J. to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to work for Berg Laboratories. He did not know how Katz was able to find out where he was working, but in any event, while absent from Berg Laboratories one day, he received a phone call from a Miss Watkins. When this message was relayed to him, he recognized it as a prearranged signal and came to New York to see Katz. Black stated that this was the last time he saw Katz or any Soviet principal.

In connection with William Stapler, Black said he first met him about 1943 and believed he was introduced to Stapler by Katz. However, he is not certain of this and it could have been someone else. Black believed this meeting took place in New York City, but is not certain of same. After this initial meeting, Black met Stapler on two other occasions, both at Penn Station, Newark, N. J. and both meetings took place within a six-week period. At the first meeting at Penn Station, Newark, Black gave Stapler a sealed envelope containing over \$100. Stapler complained to Black about money and said the Hopewell reports were worth more than he was receiving. The second meeting occurred about six weeks later and nothing unusual transpired at this meeting. Black described this meeting as merely a maintaining contact meeting. In trying to estimate the year when these two meetings occurred, Black recalls Stapler telling him that his son was then 21 years of age and was in the U. S. Army.

Black further stated that he lost his job at Nopco in 1944, after ten years employment there. He told Joseph Katz he was jobless, whereas actually he was working a few days a week for Fine Organics in Lodi, N. J. and later for Berg Laboratories in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since Katz thought he was out of work, Black received \$100 a month for at least six months. Black was certain that he did not receive only \$500 and he believes it is possible that he could have received \$700.

At the conclusion of the interview, Black stated that he was sorry that he could not be more specific on dates,

THOMAS L. BLACK

that he finds it difficult to relate events that occurred almost twenty years ago.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

TO: W. L. Branigan ^{AP 70}

FROM: H. N. Wallace H.N.W.

Thomas Leeming Black

Captioned case has been reviewed and careful consideration given to the advisability of any reinterviews, interviews or other action which may now appear warranted. In the event such now appears desirable, necessary action is being initiated.

Bureau file: 65-57121

65-59181-18-EMG

NOT RECORDED

14 FEB 28 1958

8/29/58

Transmit the _____

AIRTEL _____

REGISTERED MAIL _____

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-64089)
FROM : SAC, NEWARK (105-5446)
SUBJECT: JOSEPH GRENBORG was.
IS - R

OO - NY

Re NY Airtel to Bureau, 7/21/58; Philadelphia Airtel
To Bureau, 7/30/58; New York Airtel to Bureau, 8/13/58; and
New York Airtel to Bureau, 8/14/58.

On 8/29/58 THOMAS L. BLACK was interviewed by SA
FREDERICK C. ZINCK. At that time the film forwarded by New York by
Airtel 8/14/58 was exhibited to BLACK twice. He was also shown
the picture of the man believed to be subject at an earlier age
forwarded with New York Airtel 8/13/58. Also discussed with
BLACK were the personal idiosyncrasies of subject and compared
to those of PAUL, his espionage principal. BLACK furnished the
following information:

65-59181-✓

NOT RECORDED

Surveillance Film

174 SEP 4 1958

BLACK is quite certain that the man depicted in the film
could not be identical with PAUL. PAUL was heavy set and had a full
face. If he had lost that much weight in 25 years, his face would
have to show it in the form of wrinkles, etc. The man in the film
does not appear old enough as PAUL would be nearly sixty years of
age now. (PAUL was a young man during the Russian Revolution, so
must have been born around 1900.)

The nose of the man in the film is shaped differently
than PAUL's and appears larger. The man in the film walks in
a manner similar to the way PAUL walked. Unless PAUL has changed
completely in his habits, he never would have removed his coat on
the street or have gone without a tie as the man in the film did.
(PAUL was a fanatic on neat dress and at the time BLACK knew him
would not have dressed without a tie even in the hottest weather.)

3-Bureau (RM)
2-New York (105-27207) ~~xxxx~~ (RM)
1-Philadelphia (105-3441) (info) (RM)
1-Newark (105-5446)

FCZ:AM
(7)

Approved: _____

Sent _____

2 AUG 30 1958

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-64089

NK 105-5446

Security of Method of Meeting

All things considered, BLACK is certain that the man in the film is not PAUL.

Picture of man believed to be subject at an earlier secured through cooperation of

7/8/58

070

BLACK is certain that this is not a picture of PAUL.

Residence and Employment

BLACK knew nothing of PAUL's residence or employment. From references made during conversations, he assumed that PAUL had some type of cover employment. BLACK is certain PAUL could not have been employed as a waiter. Such a job would not suit PAUL's personality. He traveled quite a bit and appeared to be so engaged that he would never have to be at a job at any given time. BLACK is certain PAUL would not have taken a job where he would be exposed to many people as a waiter would. PAUL was always very careful where they went and was conscious of anyone recognizing him. One time when BLACK and PAUL were in an Italian restaurant and before they had ordered, PAUL saw a man whom he recognized enter the restaurant and thereafter told BLACK that they should leave immediately.

Drinking Habits

PAUL drank occasionally, always in restaurants, not at bars. He would usually order a drink according to the occasion and in keeping with the type of place where they were dining. In an Italian restaurant he would probably order wine with his meal. In Childs restaurant they usually had cocktails. On occasion they would have highballs. BLACK cannot recall any brand of liquor ordered by PAUL and does not associate Canadian Club whiskey with him.

Eating Habits

PAUL did not have any severe stomach trouble but occasionally had a "sour stomach" and would enter a drugstore to get a Bromo-seltzer. BLACK never knew PAUL to follow a diet (as indicated by HARRY GOLD), and he often ate rich foods.

NK 105-5446

BLACK is certain that PAUL never used his knife and fork in "European style." PAUL was intent on appearing American in every way and used to lecture BLACK on not appearing European. He criticized BLACK for ordering Russian dressing on one occasion because he said that they should never give any indication of sympathy for Russia or anything European.

Reading Habits

BLACK knew nothing of PAUL's reading habits. He felt that PAUL was well read.

Smoking Habits

BLACK never knew PAUL to smoke. He did not criticize BLACK for smoking, but at one time when he noted that BLACK had switched from Camels to Raleighs, he told him to change back to Camels since Raleigh cigarettes displayed a union label, and he felt someone might think BLACK was sympathetic to unions.

BLACK feels that GOLD must have PAUL confused with one of his other contacts when he says that PAUL was a heavy smoker. BLACK pointed out here that he knew PAUL better than GOLD, having had contact with him over a longer period of time.

Entertainment Habits

BLACK knew nothing of PAUL's entertainment habits, but from his personality and manner of talking, he feels sure that he was not the type to be interested in horse racing or other forms of wagering. He was the type who would have gone to the theater or attend functions of an intellectual nature.

Language Ability

PAUL spoke English slowly with an accent which BLACK felt was a Bavarian-type German accent. He spoke softly at all times even if he was excited and angry. He was never known to raise his voice. BLACK always felt that PAUL was not Russian but may have been able to speak Russian. He never associated PAUL with Lithuania.

Transmit the following _____

NK 105-5446

Dress and Personal Notes

PAUL dressed well at all times and was very particular about being neat.

PAUL walked slowly and may have leaned forward slightly. PAUL did not walk with his toes pointed out. BLACK is certain of this since he himself walked that way because of flat feet, which he eventually corrected by using arch supports. While he walked that way, he was very conscious of the manner in which other people walked. He agreed that the man in the film walked very much like PAUL did.

PAUL did not wear glasses when BLACK knew him.

PAUL had no mole on his face as far as BLACK can recall. He thinks he would remember it and BLACK is certain that PAUL would have had it removed since he was so intent on not having any distinguishing features.

Conclusions

BLACK advised that after viewing the several pictures displayed to him previously, the new one shown to him, seeing the film and discussing subject's characteristics and habits, he is certain that subject is not identical with PAUL. He stated that in the event GOLD does not eliminate subject after seeing the film, he would be more than willing to assist further in this matter. He suggested that if desirable, sometime when it was determined where subject was working and time would permit, he could go there and arrange to be waited on by subject. He could then see him face-to-face and could hear his voice. He feels sure he would know PAUL's voice should he hear it again. He also suggested that if desired, they could be observed and he would greet subject as PAUL and subject's reaction could be observed. He could then pass it off as mistaken identity.

It should be borne in mind, however, that anyone knowing BLACK would immediately recognize him in view of his unusual appearance. BLACK pointed out that by merely observing subject on the street at a distance would not be much different than seeing the film since the film is a good one and contains several clear close-up views of the subject.

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

NK 105-5446

Priority or Method of Mailing: _____

BLACK advised that he works more or less on his own and could make himself available most any day if notified early in the morning.

The above is pointed out to reflect BLACK's cooperativeness and availability in the event other action may be necessary in the future to definitely establish that subject is not identical with PAUL.

BROWN

TO:

W. A. Branigan ^{AB}

Date 10/9/58

FROM: H.H. WALLACE JR ²²²

THOMAS LESSING ^C BLACK
ESP-R

E. W. Gregg
Rm. 1522

Captioned case has been reviewed and careful consideration given to the advisability of any reinterviews, interviews or other action which may now appear warranted. In the event such now appears desirable, necessary action is being initiated.

Bureau file: 65-55181

65-59181-✓

NOT RECORDED

5 OCT 17 1958

Espionage ¹⁶ Section

FBI

Date: 11/15/74

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

SECRET

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-57913)
FROM: SAC, NEWARK (65-3923) (P)
SUBJECT: JOSEPH KATZ, aka
ESP-OR
(OO:NY)

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 2-13-78 BY [signature]

Re New York teletype, 10/15/74.
New York airtel to Bureau, 10/21/74.
Bureau letter to Newark and New York 11/7/74.
Newark airtel to Bureau, 11/12/74.

But checks on Trenton, NJ, on 11/13/74, revealed the following:

Name: THOMAS L. BLACK
Mailing Address: PO Box 68
Ridgefield, NJ

Driver's License Number: B50067-40730-7674
DOB: 7/5/07
POB: Bloomsberg, Pa.
Ht: 5'8"
Wt: Over 220 pounds
Eyes: Blue
Employment: Joseph Turner and Co.
1030 Pleasantview Terr.
Ridgefield, N.J.
945-8380

Telephone: No listing
Residence Phone: No listing
License Issued: Aug., 1971

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913
ON 2/17/78 BY [signature]

65-59181-✓
NOT RECORDED
7 NOV 20 1974

SECRET

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~
~~DATE 3-13-78 BY [signature]~~
~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~

3-Bureau
(1-65-59181) (BLACK)
3-New York (65-14713)
(1-65-15338) (BLACK)
3-Newark
(1-65-4074)
FHC/lmz
(2)

Approved: [signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-57913-1

NK 65-3923

Name: RICHARD C. DEXHEIMER
Address: 323 E. Ridgewood Rd.
South Orange, NJ
Driver's License
Number: D29745-55631-2242
DOB: Dec., 1924
Eyes: Brown
Wt: 201-220 pounds
Ht: 6'2"
Employment: None listed
License Issued: Aug., 1973

(DOB of former employee RICHARD C. DEXHEIMER
at Boine Chemical Co., Elizabeth Port, NJ, previously determined
to be 12/30/24.)

Name: JACOB I. FOSS
Address: 177 E. Railway Ave.
Paterson, NJ
Driver's License
Number: F0563-30169-09185
DOB: 9/1/17
POB: Brooklyn, NY
Eyes: Hazel
Wt: 161-160 pounds
Ht: 5'11"
Hair: Brown
Home Telephone: None listed
Employment: Spruce Chemical Co.
177 E. Railway Ave.
Paterson, NJ
Telephone: 274-7943
License Issued: Aug., 1973

Name: ERNEST SIGESSMANN
Address: 380 Crescent Dr.
Franklin Lakes, NJ
Home Telephone: 201-337-7266
Driver's License
Number: S2218-23400-03012
DOB: 3/23/01
POB: Switzerland
Eyes: Brown

NK 65-3923

Ht: 161-180 pounds
Wt: 5'9"
Employment: Retired
License Issued: Feb. 1972
Vehicles Owned: 1974 Oldsmobile two-door, green
New Jersey Registration 641 BHT

1971 Ford Station Wagon, red
New Jersey Registration 511 ACY
HARRIET C. SCHOESSEMANN
Same

Wife:
Address:
Driver's License
Number: S2218-21600-54934
DOB: 4/16/1898
POB: Meadville, Pa.
Eyes: Blue
Ht: 5'11"
Wt: 140 pounds
Driver's License
Issued: 11/12/73

[REDACTED] telephone call placed to Joseph
Turner and Co., on 10/15/73, determined that THOMAS L. BLACK
is retired and can be reached at the following address:

C/O ALEX BILAGHI
Apt. 8, 4211 Church St.
Clarkston, Ga. 30021

87E

LEADS:

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Advise Newark of any further
investigation required within the Newark Division.

FBI

Date: 11/12/74

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-57913)

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (65-3923) (P)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH KATZ, aka
ESP-R
(OO:NEW YORK)

Re New York teletype, 10/15/74.
New York airtel to Bureau, 10/31/74.
Bureau letter to Newark and New York, 11/7/74.

On 11/11/74, [REDACTED]
Borne Chemical Co., 632 So. Front St., Elizabeth Port, NJ,
furnished the following information: **B7D**

THOMAS L. BLACK, DPOB 7/5/07, Bloomsburg, Pa., SSAN
136-09-0915, was last employed by Borne Chemical Co., on 5/8/63.

Residence at that time was 1 Roseld (possibly Roseland)
Ave., Deal, NJ, Apt. C-27.

65-59181-✓

3-Bureau
(1-65-59181) (BLACK)

3-New York (65-14918)
(1-65-15338) (BLACK)

3-Newark
(1-65-4074)

PHC/mt
(9)

CLASSIFIED BY 4913
EXEMPT FROM SCHEDULE C
EXEMPT FROM SCHEDULE D
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED Indefinite

NOT RECORDED
7 NOV 20 1974

CARBON COPY

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

~~SECRET~~

NK 65-3923

BLACK formerly worked at Havex Corp., 589 Ferry St., Newark, NJ, as a chemist from 9/61 to 4/62. This firm is currently out of business.

On his employment application at Borne Chemical, BLACK listed two individuals as currently employed by Borne Chemical and associates of him. [REDACTED]

Subsequent to BLACK's departure from Borne Chemical, he had teamed with RICHARD G. DEXHEIMER (characterized as an "idea man") and this pair had rented space in a plant of the Resin Corp. of America, 1399 West Blancke St., Linden, NJ, telephone 862-5155.

[REDACTED] advised that subsequent to this employment, he believed that BLACK may have entered the dismantling business in Bayonne, NJ.

[REDACTED] advised that DEXHEIMER had resided at #3 Lady Bess Drive, Deal, NJ, in 9/64, however, had had inquiries from creditors of DEXHEIMER subsequent to his departure from Borne Chemical, which indicated this address was no longer current.

A review of Newark file 65-4074 reveals a telephone listing for BLACK in Sparta, NJ, which is no longer current.

A check of telephone listing for Sparta and Deal was conducted in an attempt to locate any current listing for BLACK with negative results.

[REDACTED] advised that BLACK listed as the person to be contacted in the event of an emergency E. SEGESSEMAN, of FD #1, Franklin Lakes, NJ, telephone FE7-7266. This individual is undoubtedly identical with ERNEST G. SEGESSEMAN, DOB 3/28/01, POB Thun, Switzerland, SSAN 136-07-9454.

A review of BLACK's file additionally lists JACOB ISRAEL FASS, aka Jack Fass, DPOB 9/1/18, Brooklyn, NY, as an associate of BLACK.

New York note that in referenced New York airtel, the Newark file number for the JOSEPH KATZ files was inadvertently mistyped as 3933.

~~SECRET~~

B7D

NK 65-3923

Newark is not in receipt of New York teletype 10/15/74.

New York is requested to assess feasibility of locating BLACK's current employment [REDACTED] Newark not being in possession of all recent information in this case is unable to pass judgement on the correctness of locating BLACK through his former associates, who may be in a position to alert BLACK to current Bureau interest in him.

LEADS

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Advise Newark of assessment.

NEWARK

AT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY: Will report results of outstanding DEV checks.

070

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

FBI

Date: 2/6/75

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

in AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-57913)

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (65-3923) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH KATZ, aka
ESP-R
(OO: NEW YORK)

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 2-13-78 BY [signature]

Re: Atlanta airtel to Bureau, 1/28/75.

A review of DMV records at Trenton, N.J., on 2/5/75, reflected that ALEX R. BIELAWSKI, DFOB 4/15/30, Bayonne, N.J., home address 127 West 19th St., Bayonne, N.J., employment Smooth-On, Inc., 1000 Valley Road, Gillette, N.J., was issued N.J. driver's license B4166-01979-04304, which expired in 1971.

On 2/6/75 [redacted] Smooth-On, Inc., 1000 Valley Road, Gillette, N.J., telephone 201-647-5800, advised that BIELAWSKI had been employed by Smooth-On, Inc., as a laboratory technician. He began employment in 1966 when Smooth-On, Inc., was located in Jersey City, N.J.

~~SECRET~~

65-59181-✓ 870

- 3-Bureau
- 1-65-59181 (BLACK)
- 2-Atlanta (65-1407)
- 3-New York (65-14918)
- 1-65-15336 (BLACK)
- 2-Newark
- 1-65-4074
- PHC/jpt
- (10)

CLASSIFIED BY 5871
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY NUMBER 3
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON INDEFINITE

DECLASSIFIED BY 4013
on 2-11-75

NOT RECORDED
162 FEB 20 1975

65-59181-24 1975

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Original Filed In

NK 65-3923

and terminated his employment in 1971, based on the increased commute to Smooth-On's new location in Gillette, N.J., and the refusal on the part of his immediate supervisor to recommend an increased in salary for him.

[REDACTED] stated that it was his understanding that BIELAWSKI resided with his father in Bayonne, N.J., and may have a private income. He stated that BIELAWSKI has a physical disability in that his right foot angles out substantially.

[REDACTED] characterized Smooth-On, Inc., as a firm dealing primarily in plastic and epoxy cements which manufactures flexible molds and plastic tooling equipment among other products which are derived from a base of polysulfide or polyurathane.

He advised that BIELAWSKI's parting with Smooth-On, Inc., was amiable and he has received no requests for references.

Newark indices negative regarding BIELAWSKI.

LEADS

ATLANTA

AT CLARKSTON, GEORGIA: Continue investigation.

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Will continue investigation.

870

SECRET

DIRECTOR, FBI (65-57913)

4/28/75

SAC, ATLANTA (65-1407) (RUC)

JOSEPH KATZ, aka
ESP - R
OO: NEW YORK

Re Newark airtel, 2/6/75, and Atlanta airtel,
1/28/75.

On 4/23/75, a review of this case file revealed
no further investigation by the Atlanta Division is re-
quired. This case will, therefore, be placed in an RUC
status.

DECLASSIFIED 4913
ON 2/11/89 BY SP/ES

ACT
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
DATE 2-15-78 BY [signature]

~~SECRET~~

Classified by 3432
XGDS Category 2 and 3
Declassified Indefinite

- 3 - Bureau (2- 65-57913)
(1- 65-59181) (BLACK)
- 3 - New York (2- 65-14918)
(1- 65-15338) (BLACK)
- 1 - Atlanta
PER/lru
(7)

65-59181-✓

NOT RECORDED
42 MAY 1 1975

50 MAY 09 1975

UNREC COPY FILED IN 65-59181-14

JUN 5 1975

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-57413)
(ATTN: INTD)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (65-14013) (P)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH PAPP and
KIP-R
(JOSEPH)

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
DATE 2-15-78 BY [signature]

ORIGINAL FILED IN

ReNYairtel, 5/14/74, Legat, London airtel, 3/14/74,
NYairtel to the Director, 1/13/75, ATLOS, 4/25/75.

In view of the possible arrival and re-interview of
the subject, the NYO feels that an interview of THOMAS BLACK
should be conducted in the early or near future. The NYO re-
commends that individuals familiar with this matter from New York,
interview BLACK in Atlanta, in conjunction with Atlanta Agents.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau is requested to consider permission or
direction of allowing New York Personnel to interview BLACK in
the Atlanta Division with Atlanta Personnel.

~~SECRET~~
Classified by [signature]
Exempt from automatic downgrading and
declassification
Date of [signature] Category 2 and 3
Exemption Indefinite

3-Bureau (RM)
① 65-57413
2-Atlanta (65-1407) (RM)
1-New York (65-15338)
1-New York

RFV:epc
(8)

DECLASSIFIED
ON 2/1/75 BY 113
1/55

NOT RECORDED
100 JUL 8 1975

65-57413-✓

NY 65-14913

Atlanta will await instructions of FBI Headquarters in this matter.

New York will await instructions of FBI Headquarters in the above referenced matter.

7/10/75

TOP SECRET

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-57913)
(ATTN: INTD)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (65-14913) (P)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH KATZ
ESP - R
(OO: NY) *Thomas Leaking Black*

ReBuairtel, 6/27/75.(u)

The NYO has completed review of material necessary for this interview. However, New York not in possession of THOMAS BLACK's testimony before the Senate Internal Sub-Committee on May 17, 1956. New York is in possession of the last recorded interview of BLACK on April 5, 1962, a copy of which is retained in New York file 65-14943. It would appear from a review of the material available to New York that this was the last interview of BLACK. (u)

Newark is requested to forward to the New York Office, if available, a copy of the subject's testimony before the Senate Internal Security Committee in May of 1956, and any other information relating to these appearances. (u)

- Classified by 4917
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Declassify on: Indefinite
- ③ - Bureau (RM)
 - 1 - 65-57913
 - 2 - Atlanta (65-1407) (RM) 2-11-78 AP/KG
 - 2 - Newark (65-39323)
 - 1 - 65-4674 (BLACK)
 - 1 - New York (65-15336)
 - 1 - New York

RH:man
(10)

TOP SECRET

65-59181-✓

70 JUL 23 1975

RECEIVED
DATE 2-11-78

NOT RECORDED
183 JUL 17 1975

ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-57913-1342

~~SECRET~~

NY 65-14913

TOP ~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

Atlanta will notify New York when interview with BLACK is feasible. (u)

LEADS

NEWARK

AT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY. Newark requested to forward to New York, copy of the Senate Internal Security Committee appearance of BLACK in May of 1950 for the completion of all statements that BLACK has made, both to the Bureau and Government representatives. (u)

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK. Will await notification as to when BLACK can be interviewed. New York is available to interview BLACK whenever Atlanta deems this interview feasible. (u)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

FBI

Date: 7/16/75

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-57913)
(ATT: INTD)

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (65-3923)(RUC)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH KATZ
ESP-R
(OO: NEW YORK)

~~SECRET~~
 JUL 18 1975
 [Handwritten signature/initials]

Re: New York airtel to Bureau dated 7/10/75.

Enclosed herewith for the NYO is one copy of the testimony of THOMAS L. BLACK, 708 High St., Newark, NJ, on Thursday, 5/17/56, before the United States Senate Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act and Other Internal Security Laws of the Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, D.C.

For the information of the NYO, on 5/2/56, THOMAS LESSING BLACK appeared at the Newark Office and advised on the night before a United States Marshal came to his residence and served him with a subpoena which instructed him to report

~~SECRET~~

Classified _____
 Exempt from _____ Category 2 & 3
 Date of Declassification Indefinite

③-Bureau
 (1-65-59181)(BLACK)
 1-Atlanta (65-1407)(Info.)
 3-New York (65-14913)(Enc. 1)
 (1-65-15338)(BLACK)
 2-Newark
 (1-65-4074)
 TBG/rmr
 (9)

DECLASSIFIED BY

ON

4919
 2-11-75
 1559

65-59181-✓
 NOT RECORDED
 201 JUL 23 1975

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-59181-1799

~~SECRET~~

NK 65-3923

to the Senate Office Building at 10:00 a.m. on 5/9/56. BLACK advised he was to appear before the same Senate Committee that had heard testimony from DAVID GREENGLASS and HARRY GOLD. BLACK advised he was concerned about testifying in any open session where reporters were present. He wanted to cooperate and was willing to answer any questions concerning his activities as he had done in regard to the FBI and the Grand Jury, but he would not like to have certain of the information he might furnish appear in newspapers.

██████████ indicated that he was worried about his future as far as work was concerned, as well as the possibility the Soviets might still try to get revenge. b7D

In regard to the above Grand Jury, this apparently refers to Grand Jury proceedings held in Philadelphia, Pa.

On 5/10/56, BLACK appeared at the Newark Office and related he had gone to Washington, D.C., on 5/8/56, and was interviewed by ROBERT MORRIS of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee for a couple of hours, at which time, BLACK gave MORRIS a complete statement of his past activities.

BLACK advised that the next day he appeared before the Committee for about an hour. The Committee members had copies of his statement and, although he had not read or signed it, he swore to it being the truth to the best of his recollection.

BLACK said he was still worried for fear the Committee would want him to testify in open session or might make his testimony of 5/9/56, public. BLACK did not know that the Committee planned to give anything to the press. Even though he was not identified, the "New York News", in its article, named BLACK as the possible unidentified industrial chemist, who had testified on 5/9/56. BLACK said he was worried about losing his job, even though his employer had known of his activities for a number of years. BLACK said the newspaper article indicated he had worked for the Soviets until 1950, whereas he actually broke with the Communists in 1936 and completely broke away from radical activities in 1940. His testimony showed only that he had been contacted by the Soviets as late as 1950.

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NK 65-3923

BLACK appeared at the Newark Office on 5/15/56, and exhibited a letter he had received from ROBERT MORRIS of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. The letter, dated 5/10/56, stated that the Committee members had decided BLACK should testify in public session for his own good to clear the record, for the good of the country, and to establish BLACK's "place in history". BLACK was concerned that the Committee would not bring out the complete story of his operation in order to clarify his roll as a Soviet Agent.

The above information appears to be pertinent in regard to BLACK's appearance before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

Inasmuch as all outstanding investigation has been completed, this matter is considered RUC.

~~SECRET~~